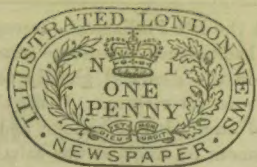


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 970.—VOL. XXXIV.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1859.

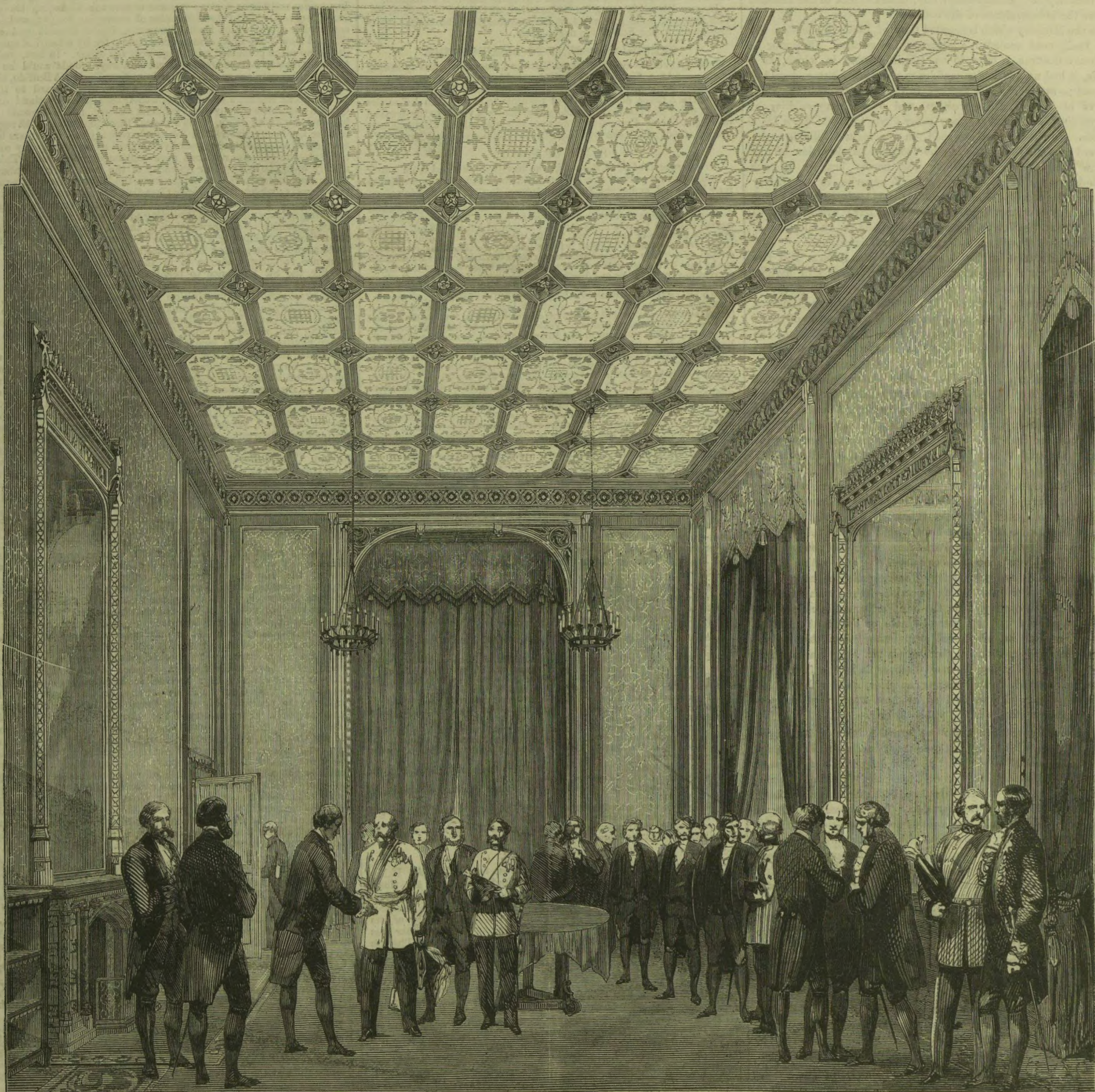
WITH A COLOURED SUPPLEMENT } FIVEPENCE

THE LATE PARLIAMENT.

THOUGH no time could have been worse chosen for a dissolution of Parliament than that selected by the Derby Ministry—a time when a European war is but too imminent, and when the whole

energies of the nation ought to have been allowed to concentrate upon the duties which England owes to herself and to the world at so important a crisis—the people with their usual aptitude have accepted the situation with all its consequences and gone heartily into the work. The land already rings with preparations

for the legislative struggle; and in a few weeks we shall have a new Parliament with most, if not all, the old gladiators restored to their accustomed seats, intermingled, perhaps, with some new blood and new energy, ready and fit for greater business than the old Parliament was permitted to accomplish



THE SPEAKER'S LEVEE, IN THE MORNING ROOM OF HIS RESIDENCE AT THE NEW PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.—SEE PAGE 401.

But the late Parliament—wrought to death untimely and slain ere it had reached maturity—must not be permitted to take its place in the dim and ghostly army of the by-gones without a tribute to its virtues. It should not be forgotten that it was elected on a point of honour, and that during its brief existence the honour of England was safe in its keeping. When the constituencies called it into being the matter in controversy was not its own constitution, and the expediency of reforming it, but the urgent necessity of carrying to proper completion a distant war against a semi-barbarous foe—a war in which it was a calamity to have been engaged, but in which it would have been an unspeakably greater calamity to have been foiled and humiliated. Because they had ideas on the subject of the Chinese hostilities at variance with the sentiment of the people, some of the greatest tribunes of the Anti-Corn-Law agitation—men otherwise worthy to be ranked among the most eminent servants of the country—were excluded from the national councils. All their past services were ignored or set aside in order that the one great principle of the honour of England might be emphatically affirmed. And, although some of these excluded favourites of the people—Mr. Bright among the number—afterwards found their way back to the Parliamentary arena, the principle was sufficiently affirmed by their temporary exclusion. There was no necessity to carry their punishment further; and their re-entrance to Parliament was hailed with general satisfaction by men of all parties.

The first great act in its career proved that the Parliament was faithful alike to its origin and its instincts, when it cast from power the great and popular Minister under whose auspices it had been elected, for no other reason than because it thought the honour of the country was not safe in his custody when he seemed to yield to the dictation of a foreign Potentate, and to propose a change in the laws of England under extraneous influence or coercion. The Parliament of 1857 performed its duty manfully, and proved to all Europe that, although a British statesman of the highest rank and most distinguished service might fall into temporary error, the British people were true to their ancient traditions, and would rather, in a rightful cause, immolate a favourite Minister, or incur the hostility of a great foreign ally, than sacrifice in the smallest degree the independence of the country.

To the Ministry which succeeded that of Lord Palmerston the last Parliament accorded a generous forbearance. Superior to factious influences, it gave to an Administration in which, as a whole, it had no particular confidence a qualified but a dignified support;—aware of, and making full allowances for, the difficulties of Lord Derby's position, and of the impossibility of superseding his Ministry by any other likely to retain office for a month. In the debates of 1858, on the several bills brought forward to settle the bases of the future administration of our Indian Empire, reconquered by the heroic bravery of our admirable army, it again proved itself superior to all merely party considerations, and, with a single view to the public interest, aided the Government, which it might have overthrown, to elaborate and perfect a measure which none of the leaders of party had been able to shape to the public satisfaction.

In the debates upon Mr. Disraeli's defunct Reform Bill the character of the Parliament was, if possible, raised still higher. Those debates afforded proof that, whether as regarded power of intellect or of oratory, or a display of public spirit, the Commons of England might compare advantageously with any of their predecessors; that the prediction once hazarded, that the Reform Act of 1832 would lower the intellectual status of the Legislature, was falsified, and not for the first time or on the least brilliant occasion. Both sides of the House alike extorted from the unwilling lips of contemporary critics, always ready to decry the merits of living men and to exalt the worth of the dead, the confession that there were giants in our day, as in the days of old, and that the fires of genius were not extinct amongst us. And although it may be doubted whether the Parliament, in its corporate capacity, were at all aware that the vote of its majority on Lord John Russell's resolution would seal its doom, relegating it into the pages of history—a thing as defunct as George III. or a Parliament of Queen Elizabeth—it cannot be denied that many conscientious members spoke and voted against the Ministry with the full knowledge that a new Parliament might be the result of their votes, and that some of them so speaking and voting would never again have an opportunity of serving their country in the same capacity. For thus acting upon conviction, without calculation of personal consequences, the late Parliament is collectively entitled to respect. If any over-obstinate or over-cautious Conservative require an additional argument against the further reforms in the Constitution for which Mr. Bright and others are so lustily contending, he may discover it in the fact that a Parliament elected under existing auspices, and with existing machinery, was in this as well as in most other respects a perfectly fair representative of the public feeling.

In performing another and more formal portion of its duty—that of returning thanks to the Commander-in-Chief and our brave troops in India for the splendid manner in which they crushed the most gigantic rebellion that ever tried the temper of an army or the resources of a nation—the late Parliament showed itself worthy of itself and of the occasion. The successful Generals of irresponsible Monarchs may receive popular ovations, and the despots whom they serve may load their bosoms with stars and crosses, their purses with pensions, and their names with titles; but the Generals and soldiers of Great Britain, without despoiling substantial honours or still more substantial pensions, value at a high rate the unanimous thanks of the two Houses of Parliament. These thanks, to be duly conveyed to them, were among the very latest acts of a House of Commons specially elected to preserve our honour in the Chinese war, but that subsisted long enough to witness and be grateful for the vindication of our honour and supremacy in a greater field of conflict, and for a stake more tremendous.

In the deliberations upon the present ominous aspect of Europe which closed the Session the dignified sentiments expressed in both Houses by the leading statesmen of both parties reflected honour upon our institutions. The advice given and the warnings uttered will be heard in the secret councils of every Continental Sovereign, and will give the tone to the various constituencies

throughout the empire who, in a few days, will be engaged in the task of electing another Parliament. The last debate of the old House of Commons prescribes the task of the new. Whether it shall or shall not carry a Reform Bill is uncertain, and possibly unimportant, but that it must guide the fortunes of Great Britain at a time of no ordinary peril is beyond a doubt. A storm is about to burst over Europe the like of which has not been seen by the present generation; and the difficulties and complications that may result will try the wisdom of the few and the patriotism of the many. And if the new Parliament be no worse than the old the honour of the nation will be safe in its keeping.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday, in an official article on the present state of affairs in Europe, announced that France had promised to request Sardinia to disarm, on condition that Piedmont and the other Italian States should be invited to take part in the Congress. The article further adds that France is even disposed to assent to a disarmament previous to the Congress; and concludes by saying—“Everything, therefore, leads to the presumption that, if all the difficulties are not yet smoothed down, the definitive agreement will not fail to be established, and nothing more will be opposed to the meeting of the Congress.”

A despatch was received from Paris on Wednesday night, regarding the proposed European Congress, to the following effect:—

It is asserted that the reply of the Austrian Government to the last proposal respecting the representation of Piedmont in the Congress has arrived to-day, and that the reply is to the effect that Austria does not object to the admission of Piedmont. It is further stated that the French Government has given its consent to the appointment of a commission for carrying out the disarmament, requiring only that it be composed of diplomatists; while Austria and England, on the other hand, propose that it be constituted of military members.

Jerome Bonaparte, the grandson of Marshal Prince Jerome, who is a Captain in the French Army, has returned to France from America, where he has been passing some months on a visit to his family.

On Friday week the large glass-roofed building in the Champs Elysées was thrown open to the Paris public to witness the periodical exhibition of paintings, sculpture, water-colour drawings, and engravings. The Fine Arts Committee have availed themselves of the galleries which circle the vast structure to display the works of living artists. Thus, with a good light and plenty of room for circulation, the exhibition, as regards accommodation, is admirable.

Horace Vernet is going to be married, at the age of sixty-seven. The bans are now placarded at the mayoralty of the tenth arrondissement, in the Rue de Grenelle, Paris.

SARDINIAN ASSENT TO DISARMAMENT.

Intelligence was received from Turin on Tuesday to the following effect:—“At a Council of Ministers held early this morning, at which the King was present, it was resolved that, in order to give to Europe a proof of the desire of Sardinia to remove the difficulties which delay the meeting of a Congress, Sardinia yields to the demand of England and France, and accepts the principle of disarmament, the details of which she will leave to be discussed in the Congress.”

STATE OF ITALY.

A correspondent of *Galigiani*, who has just returned from a tour through a great part of the Italian peninsula, and on whom reliance may be placed, sends the following interesting communication:—

The state of Italy may be thus described:—At Venice the troops continue to arrive at the rate of three or four thousand a day. The Government contracted with the Lloyd's Company, at the rate of a florin a head, to bring over any number of troops; and, besides, two large Government steamers arrive every morning crowded with soldiers. Fortifications have been erected on the Lido commanding the entrances to Venice, and various other works have been constructed on the small islands to the north of the city, to prevent any surprise by gun-boats, as in the event of a war an attack on Venice is considered by the Austrians as a certainty. Four large vessels were hired on the 15th to take artillery stores, ammunition, &c., to Ancona. Contracts were entered into to construct loghouses at Mantua for the troops, and no less than 500 masts were contracted for to furnish the arsenal at Venice. The empty palaces at Venice are taken for barracks; even the Ragonica, which belonged to the Infanta of Spain, is now crowded to its highest window with troops, and the houses belonging to the Count de Chambord in the Place San Vidal are being altered to accommodate soldiers. From Venice to Milan the whole country is covered with troops, and the greatest activity is visible in Verona, Mantua, and Peschiera. At Milan the troops are billeted on the Italians, and the number of the Austrian soldiery now in Italy cannot be computed at less than 220,000 men. The Emperor, with Baron Hess, was expected at Venice on the 17th inst. His Majesty's yacht left Venice on Saturday last for Trieste, to convey his Majesty. At Turin continual deserters from the Lombardo-Venetian States arrive, and on Sunday last upwards of 200 young Florentine volunteers made their way to Turin. The preparations for war on both sides, and the certainty of a revolution should no war occur, place all the efforts of the Congress in a very peculiar point of view; for with the vicinity of the various troops to each other, the hatred which is mutual on each side, and the enthusiasm in Turin, there can be little hope of avoiding a collision which would instantly light up into a war.

PRUSSIA.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on Monday, says:—One more and last attempt is now being made to maintain the peace of Europe. Prussia now offers, if possible, in conjunction with England, to conclude a treaty with Austria, to the following effect:—

1. Austria either to terminate her special treaties with the Italian States or to convert them into simply defensive alliances, but under all circumstances to renounce and give up the right of active interference in the internal affairs of the Italian States, which she now claims in virtue of these treaties.
2. Austria to recognise as the future guide of her Italian policy the principle of non-intervention.
3. To reduce her pretensions to the occupation of Piacenza to the simple right, stipulated by the treaty, of maintaining a military garrison there.
4. To evacuate the Roman Legations at the same time that the French withdraw their troops from the city of Rome and Civita Vecchia.
5. To guarantee that no attack shall be made on the territorial possessions of Sardinia, if that Power give a similar guarantee not to disturb the Italian possessions of Austria. And, finally,
6. To consent to a general European Congress, in order to come to a mutual and pacific understanding for a durable settlement of the States of Italy, based upon the territorial and sovereign rights guaranteed by the existing treaties.

On the other hand, if Austria will accede to these conditions, Prussia, eventually supported by England, binds herself:—

1. As a set-off against these concessions to induce France and Sardinia to keep the peace;
2. To oppose any armed intervention in Italy on the part of France, if needful, by adequate military assistance; and
3. As the ally of Austria, to declare war against France as soon as she French troops begin to cross the Alps.

UNITED STATES.

The trial of the Hon. Daniel E. Sickles, for killing Mr. Philip Barton Key, was commenced at Washington on the 4th inst. Intense interest was manifested in the proceedings, and the courtroom was crowded to excess. Judge Crawford presided. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Robert Ould, the Attorney of the United States for the district of Columbia, and the prisoner was defended by quite an army of legal talent, including Mr. Thomas Francis Meagher. Mr. Sickles, in a firm, clear tone, pleaded “Not guilty.” The first day was devoted to the task of empanelling a jury, but the panel was exhausted before more than five were sworn. Every person was challenged as to whether he had formed any prejudices in the case, and also as to his property qualification; and in many instances parties admitted that their prejudices were so strongly in favour of the prisoner that they could not render an impartial verdict. These, of course, were set aside. On the second day a new panel of seventy-five jurymen was exhausted, only three being qualified, making eight in all. An additional panel was ordered, and the court adjourned till the 6th. The papers give voluminous reports of the proceedings, but nothing of moment had transpired.

The election in Connecticut for State officers, members of Congress, and the Legislature, resulted in the complete success of the Republicans.

A fugitive slave case was under investigation in Philadelphia, and the excitement in the court was such as to require the presence of a large police force to maintain order.

The Suffolk Flour Mills at Boston, containing about 3000 barrels of flour and a large quantity of grain, had been destroyed by fire. The mills were insured for 50,000 dollars. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

There are reports of serious crevasses in the Mississippi River. A despatch from New Orleans, dated April 4, says:—“The crevasses are flooding many plantations at Diamond Island, and great fears are entertained of a break just above the city. Five hundred men are employed strengthening the levee. The river is nine inches higher than it was last year at Vicksburg.”

The *New York Herald* of the 5th instant has a special despatch from Washington containing the following information relative to important movements on the part of the Government with reference to the difficulties with Nicaragua:—

M. Rannels, the newly-appointed Consul at San Juan del Sur, leaves this port to-day for Central America, with despatches to our Minister, General Lamar, and the commanders of the home and the Pacific squadrons. The instructions sent out to these agents are said to be of a peremptory character, and such as will hasten a settlement of the questions pending between the two Republics. It is reported that an opinion has been expressed in official quarters that a necessity for an extra Session of Congress may occur, owing to the condition of our foreign relations.

A Washington telegram on the same subject says:—

The despatches sent to General Lamar are, it is represented, of the most positive character. They instruct him to demand from Nicaragua an apology, restitution, and indemnity, on a failure to comply with which he is to ask for his passports. The home squadron, it is said, will be strengthened, and the vessels placed at the disposal of General Lamar, to use them for the defence of American citizens, their property, and vested rights. The despatches to flag officers McCluney and Long, commanding respectively the home and Pacific squadrons, are to obey the orders of General Lamar. Failing to receive them, they are to exercise a latitudinous discretion. The usual diplomatic course has been pursued in informing the foreign relations of the intentions of this Government.

CANADA.

(From our Correspondent.)

TORONTO, April 4.

After a somewhat tedious debate the new tariff has, as you know, become law, and, with this exception, it may be said that news is meagre in the extreme. There are some who affect to think that the tariff will not find favour at New York, and that accordingly this influence, which is very powerful at Washington, will be directed to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. The reason is that the tendency of this treaty will be to encourage imports by the St. Lawrence, and hence destroy to some extent the Canadian trade of New York. Owing to the difficulties of conveying freight, and from some other causes which I will enumerate, Upper Canada had constituted New York as its commercial centre, for by a tariff of specific duties no place possessed advantage over the other. In fact, before the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway, goods could be delivered in Toronto one month earlier from New York, via Buffalo, than from Quebec. Now it possesses no advantage with regard to time, for the ocean steamers which deposit their freight at Portland or at Quebec connect with our great national railway, and the goods are forwarded without delay. But although this equalisation with regard to time has been gained—and for nearly three years importers have been able to deposit their goods by Montreal as early as by any other channel—the business relations here continued unchanged. This is mainly owing to the greater liberality of the New York merchants, which they were enabled to evince from the larger amount of capital they possess; whereas the Upper Canadian traders complain that the Montreal merchants are severe in exacting settlements, seldom readily renewing notes, and socially extending to them little courtesy.

The reopening of the navigation of the St. Lawrence will shortly commence, and shipping will be able to come up to Quebec. This route acquires the greater importance at the present time from the reference recently made to it in the Legislative Assembly. In turning the St. Lawrence to practical account, the materials are already at hand to consolidate its claims to the patronage of the commercial world, for, in addition to that most noble of rivers, we have a railway in the Grand Trunk unequalled in the Western Hemisphere. The Grand Trunk Railway intersects both Upper and Lower Canada, and measures, with its various branches, upwards of eleven hundred miles in length. Each branch has its staff of civil engineers, contractors, and labourers distinct in itself, although together forming one gigantic scheme, conducted on the most perfect and economical system, under the vigilant supervision of Mr. T. E. Blackwell, the vice-president of the company. The whole of the branch lines are not quite completed, yet they will form an addition of some hundred miles to the line as it at present exists, connecting Quebec, Montreal, Portland, Toronto, London, Sarnia, and Ottawa with one complete rail. Over this long route, however, hitherto there has been little except local traffic, only about one-tenth being foreign. The local traffic substantiates the claim of the Grand Trunk to be considered as a most important institution in Canada. But the directors are naturally anxious to secure a foreign traffic as well. The most imposing barrier to a through traffic was encountered in the St. Lawrence, which divided the line at Montreal. But as the Victoria Bridge is fast verging on completion, and the western extension to Detroit being pushed forward with all dispatch by the contractors, Messrs. Gzowski and Co., the difficulty will soon be obviated. Apart from this there has been another powerful influence at work. Until within the last nine years, it is well known, the Imperial Government enforced restrictive laws on shipping entering the St. Lawrence, allowing only British vessels to navigate the river, while at the same time New York offered such inducements to vessels of all denominations that the number of vessels arriving at that port increased in proportion to the falling off in the arrivals at Quebec. It is only since the abrogation of that injurious regulation that the trade with Quebec has improved. At that time also there was not a single lighthouse on the north shore from Quebec down to Belleisle—a distance of some eight hundred miles—nor any steam-tugs to render assistance to windbound vessels in the Gulf. These circumstances more or less combined to prevent shipowners from sending their vessels to Canadian ports. They preferred transshipping their cargoes at New York to wend their way by rail or the Hudson River to the shores of Lake Ontario. The river now abounds with lighthouses, steam-tugs, and wharves, at the most convenient sites. At Pointe Levi the Grand Trunk Railway Company have expended large sums to facilitate the arrival and dispatch of steam-vessels of the largest tonnage. There is not a doubt now entertained but that the foreign traffic in goods intended for the Far West must sooner or later take the proper channel, which is most decidedly by Canada instead of by the States. Chicago is 430 miles nearer to Montreal by the Grand Trunk route than it is to New York by the American lines; besides which it is more economical and expeditious.

INDIA.—THE BOMBAY MAIL.

The following despatch, via Marseilles, was received at the India Office on Tuesday night from Mr. H. L. Anderson, Secretary to Government, Bombay, addressed to Mr. J. Cosmo Melvill:—

CENTRAL INDIA.—The rebels are scattered in three parties—one with Feroze Shah, not far from Bursad, on the Agra and Bombay road; another with the Rao Sahib, in the Shahghur district; and the third with Tantia Tope, who is said to be at present in the Chumbul and Parone jungle. Maun Singh is near him. The following rebels have surrendered:—Dithun Lall, Bheema Naik, Abdool Sutar Khan, styled “Nawab of Powrah,” and Nawab Khan Ali Khan of Danmia: the latter has given himself up to the Rajah of Bikaner.

NIZAM'S DOMINIONS.—HYDERABAD.—An attempt was made by a Hindostanee, armed with a carbine, on the life of the Resident when returning from the Durbar on the 15th inst. (March). The ball wounded one of the Ministers who was walking with Colonel Davidson. The assassin was immediately cut down. The Resident believes that there were no accomplices in the attempt.

The Bombay Presidency is quiet.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

The Irish Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, as Lord Melbourne called her, is dead. Last week took from among us, in her well-furnished house, No. 12, William-street, Belgravia, Sydney MacOwen, alias Sydney Owens, alias Lady Morgan, alias Sydney Lady Morgan. Ireland claimed her for an Irishwoman; but, as she was born at sea—no date named—halfway between Holyhead and Dublin, England has an equal claim to the honour of her birth; and Stepney-on-the-Thames is, according to naval custom, most unquestionably her parish.

The Scotch, who are getting up at Aberdeen a great exhibition of Scottish historical memorials—the Prince Consort presiding—are about to ask the Dean and Chapter of Westminster for the loan of the stone from Scone, the famous stone on which their Kings were crowned, long and still a part of the coronation chair of the Kings and Queens of England. Crossing the Border, will it ever return? Aberdeen will change it into a block of Aberdeen granite. The committee have refused, it is said, to exhibit any memorials of King Edward I., of Howard Earl of Surrey, or of William Duke of Cumberland.

What is Crown property? Her Majesty gives a picture from Hampton Court to Holyrood; the Board of Works lend pictures from Hampton Court to Manchester, and the Boiler-school at Kensington.

The title of Mr. Dickens's new story in his publication, *All the Year Round*, is "The Two Cities," in which it is understood London and Paris will be compared.

A story of Northcote the painter will be new to many of our readers. It is a MS. story, and is at once authentic, and at this time, when the claims of the Royal Academy are under consideration, most appropriate. We use his own words:—"I had been solicited by Sir Joshua Reynolds for several years to become an Academician, but would not consent unless they made me an Academician at once, without ever being an Associate, as I considered that beneath me. But he told me that could not be complied with, when I determined never to be of the society, as I saw the success of Romney, who never would put down his name. Besides that, there were some members of the Academy who were undoubtedly my inferiors in art, and, therefore, it could not do me either service or honour, and that I only desired to be a good painter, and not foolish honours, that I might say in the words of Dr. Johnson, 'I wanted no honours but those which no man could give or take away.' All this I expressed to Sir Joshua more than once, but he still persisted in soliciting me. After many years I was overcome; but when I wrote my name I felt myself much humbled, as I had determined never to place myself in a situation where it was possible to be refused by those I thought inferior. When I put down my name it was long after the time that the list of candidates was closed; and when I asked Sir Joshua if that was any objection, he answered 'that I might put my name down at any time I liked,' and when I mentioned the names of certain Academicians of that period of very mean abilities, not now living, and asked Sir Joshua if he thought I could receive as an honour that which had been given to them, he shook his head and lifted up his hands and eyes." And well he might.

Another painter, Sir Godfrey Kneller, when dying, was asked if he would not be buried in Westminster Abbey. He shook his head, lifted up his hands and eyes, and uttered with his last breath, "No; they do bury fools there." He was buried at Twickenham; but has a monument in Westminster Abbey.

CORN-LAW RIOTS IN SPAIN.—At Aleudia, in the province of Cadiz, a mob recently assembled, vociferating against the dearth of bread; but the municipal authorities had, after causing the gendarmes to fire their carbines in the air to frighten the people, succeeded in re-establishing order.

ATTORNEYS STRUCK OFF THE ROLLS.—Mr. J. S. Robins, an attorney, was struck off the rolls last week for appropriating to his own use the sum of £18, given to him by a lady to pay succession duty. He had been convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.—On Saturday, Mr. Warwick Augustus Hunt, sen., a solicitor, was struck off the rolls for applying trust funds to his own purposes.

Madame Lola Montes, after considerable success through the principal cities of Great Britain, gave her last lecture in London on Friday, the 15th. The provincial press devoted a great deal of its space to the consideration of her performances, and generally awarded them a high degree of praise, though more for the manner than the matter; but we are informed that much of her success has been owing to the skilful business management of her agent, Mr. Heman Burr, of New York.

ANCIENT ETRURIA.—One of the Marquis Campana's cases of Etruscan jewellery deposited by him as security at the Monte di Pietà was recently opened by permission of the Roman Government, chiefly for the inspection of Baroness Rothschild and some few other favoured persons. This part of the Campana Museum contains 1146 specimens of ancient diadems, wreaths, pins for the hair, earrings, collars, necklaces, scarabei, brooches, bracers, armlets, talismanic and ritual ornaments, gold and silver utensils, rings, seals, intaglios, cameos, and amber ornaments, almost all found in Etruscan tombs, and therefore undoubted works of that ancient people.

A PORTRAIT.—DINAH, THE PREACHER.—She held no book in her ungloved hands, but let them hang down lightly crossed before her, as she stood and turned her grey eyes on the people. There was no keenness in the eyes: they seemed rather to be shedding love than making observations; they had the liquid look which tells that the mind is full of what it has to give out, rather than impressed by external objects. She stood with her left hand towards the descending sun, and leafy boughs screened her from its rays; but in this sober light the delicate colouring of her face seemed to gather a calm vividness, like flowers at evening. It was a small oval face, of a uniform transparent whiteness, with an egg-like line of cheek and chin, a full but firm mouth, a delicate nostril, and a low perpendicular brow, surmounted by a rising arch of parting, between smooth locks of pale reddish hair. The hair was drawn straight back behind the ears, and covered, except for an inch or two above the brow, by a net Quaker cap. The eyebrows, of the same colour as the hair, were perfectly horizontal and firmly pencilled; the eyelashes, though no darker, were long and abundant; nothing was left blurred or unfinished. It was one of those faces that make one think of white flowers with light touches of colour on their pure petals. The eyes had no peculiar beauty, beyond that of expression; they looked so simple, so candid, so gravely loving, that no accusing scowl, no light sneer, could help melting away before their glance.—*Adam Bede.*

THE OSTRICH.—M. Berg, a surgeon in the French Navy, and now stationed at Senegal, has addressed a curious paper on the ostrich to the President of the Imperial Zoological Society for Acclimation, in which he begins by proving that there is but one species of that bird throughout all Africa, but that, being migratory, its habits may vary according to climate and locality. Ostriches live in herds on both banks of the Senegal, but only from December to March, which is the dry season, towards the end of which, the sun having parched all the grass, the ostrich goes farther inland in quest of pasture, for it is essentially herbivorous. There is always in a herd a much larger proportion of females than of males. When there are more than six males in a herd of twenty ostriches the supernumerary ones are driven away by main force by the others. Although ostriches do not lay eggs more than once a year in Lower Senegal, M. Berg is of opinion that they lay a second time during the rainy season, when they have moved inland. The female does not lay before the fourth year of its age, the number of eggs varying from ten to thirty. The nests are always placed on high tableland, and hidden among long and dry grass. Artificial incubation by the heat of a stove does not appear to succeed with ostriches' eggs, but the Moors put the eggs into sacks together with cotton seed, which, in germinating, evolves a favourable warmth. Contrary to what might be supposed, there is scarcely any trade in ostrich feathers at Senegal, the Moors hunting the bird merely for sport and not for gain. The feathers are seldom perfectly white, but generally end in a small black speck. Those obtained from the living bird are far preferable to those got by sportsmen, which are generally spoiled. An ostrich should not be stripped of its feathers until it is at least four years old, and then it must be done only once a year, in order not to injure the bird. M. Berg denies that ostriches, as stated by Adamson and Milne Edwards, can throw stones backwards with great force, in order to check their pursuers; but the horse, being instinctively afraid of ostriches, will check its own gallop when near overtaking them.

CHESS

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CLAYTON; C. P. Richmond; and others.—The author of Problem No. 789 admits his composition can be solved as you suggest. "To err is human," &c.
W. A. Torquay.—No. 1 is ill-constructed; No. 2 allows of more than one solution; and Nos. 3 and 4 are neat and promising.
MARQUE, Canada West.—Both much too obvious.
C. P. Richmond.—No. 1, a very pretty little enigma; No. 2, so involved and crowded that nobody would look at it.
D. M. S.—We are apprehensive the proposition of such a scheme would only excite ridicule.
*Owing to the extremely limited space apportioned to Chess this week the answers to many correspondents are postponed.

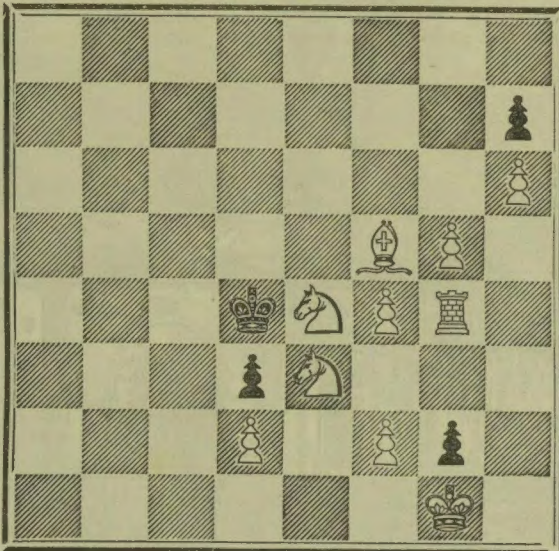
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 791.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. | WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1. Kt to K 8th | P to Q 6th (best) | 4. Kt to K Kt 7th | K moves |
| 2. P to K B 5th | K to K 4th or 5th, | or Q B 7th (ch) | |
| | or (a) | 5. R to K 4th. Mate | |
| 3. R to K 6th (ch) | K moves | | |
| a) 2. | | 4. R to Q R 6th | K moves |
| 3. Kt to Q B 7th | K to Q B 5th | 5. R to Q R 4th. Mate | |
| | K moves | | |

PROBLEM No. 792.

By A. LULMAN, Melbourne.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

CHESS IN GERMANY.

A dashing Specimen of the Evans' Gambit played by two German

Amateurs.

(Evans' Gambit.)

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. | WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1. P to K 4th | P to K 4th | 12. Q Kt to Q 2nd | Castles |
| 2. K Kt to K B 3rd | Q Kt to Q B 3rd | 13. K R to K sq | K R to K sq |
| 3. K B to Q B 4th | K B to Q B 4th | 14. K R to K 2nd | P to Q B 3rd |
| 4. P to Q Kt 4th | K B takes Kt P | 15. Q to K B 3rd | K R to K B sq |
| 5. P to Q B 3rd | K B to Q R 4th | 16. Kt to K 4th | P to Q 4th |
| 6. Castles | K Kt to K B 3rd | 17. P takes P (in pass.) | Q to K 4th |
| 7. P to Q 4th | K Kt takes K P | 18. Kt takes Kt | Q takes Q P |
| 8. K Kt takes K P | Kt takes Kt | 19. Kt to Q 7th | Q takes Q B |
| 9. P takes Kt | Kt to Q B 4th | 20. Kt takes R | Q takes Kt |
| 10. Q to Q 5th | Q to K 2nd | 21. Q takes K B P (ch) | Q takes Q |
| 11. Q B to Q R 3rd | K B to Q Kt 3rd | 22. R to K 8th.—Mate | |

ANOTHER GAME BETWEEN THE SAME PLAYERS.

(Evans' Gambit.)

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. | WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1. P to K 4th | P to K 4th | 13. Q to Q B 2nd | P to K R 3rd |
| 2. K Kt to K B 3rd | Q Kt to Q B 3rd | 14. P to K R 3rd | Q B to K R 4th |
| 3. K B to Q B 4th | K B to Q B 4th | 15. K Kt to Q 4th | P to Q B 4th |
| 4. P to Q Kt 4th | B takes Kt P | 16. K Kt to K B 5th | Q B to K Kt 3rd |
| 5. P to Q B 3rd | B to Q R 4th | 17. K Kt to K R 4th | P to Q B 5th |
| 6. Castles | P to Q 3rd | 18. Q Kt takes P | Kt takes K P |
| 7. P to Q 4th | P takes P | 19. Q takes Kt | Q R to Q B sq |
| 8. P takes P | K B to Q Kt 3rd | 20. Q to Q R 4th | Kt takes K P |
| 9. P to Q 5th | Q Kt to Q R 4th | 21. Kt takes Q B | Kt takes K B P |
| 10. K B to Q 3rd | Q B to K Kt 5th | 22. Kt takes K R | Ktks B (dis. ch) |
| 11. Q Kt to Q 2nd | K Kt to K B 3rd | 23. B to Q 4th | Q to K R 5th |
| 12. B to Q Kt 2nd | Castles | | And White surrenders. |

MR. MORPHY.—On Wednesday week the American champion, gratified the members of the London (City) Chess Club by an exhibition of his powers at blindfold chess, playing eight games at the same time against eight of the best players, without board or men. Of these games he won two and made a drawn battle in each of the other six combats. On the following day he was entertained at dinner by a large party of the members. Last Wednesday he played in the same manner against eight amateurs of the St. George's Chess Club, and in the evening dined with the members. These are probably the last games he will play in England, as he departs immediately for the United States.

FINE ARTS.

NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THIS society opened their twenty-fifth annual exhibition on Monday, and a capital exhibition it is, one of the best water-colour displays, indeed, that we have ever seen. The number of works on the walls is 364, and some of them are of dimensions, and in a style of treatment, aspiring to rivalry with oil painting. Of the subjects a large proportion are in landscape, the original and more legitimate province of water colours; but the attempts in the historical and poetic line are neither few nor unimportant. We regret, however, to be compelled to defer detailed criticism till next week, in the mean time merely enumerating a few of the more prominent contributions. L. Haigh has three pictures—viz., "Cromwell Contemplating the Portrait of Charles I.," "An Emute at Louvain in the Olden Time," and "Charles I. Receiving the News of his Betrayal." H. Warren has a large work, "The Peri," Henry Tidy a capital picture, "John Anderson, my jo;" H. Corbould, an ambitious composition, "A Dream of Fair Women;" E. H. Warren, two wonderful bits of forest scenery—one of them introducing "Robin Hood and his Merry Men;" the other, "The Babes in the Wood." E. H. Webbert, J. H. Mole, E. Morin, J. L. Rowbotham, D. A. M'Ewen, C. Vacher, J. Fahey, and the other habitués of the gallery are all favourably represented in their several lines.

The Bordeaux journals state that by the recent frosts all the shoots of the vines have been destroyed in all the cantons of Pèzenas, in that of Florensac, in the plains, in most of the vineyards on the mountain, at Frontignan, Poussan, Gigeac, and Meze, all in the Hérault; adding that the same is the case in the Narbonne and the Roussillon.

"CASSELL'S POPULAR NATURAL HISTORY." (Petter and Galpin.)—Natural history is a theme of pre-eminent interest to the youthful mind, and will ever engross a large share of attention in the process of education. We therefore rejoice to find Mr. Cassell, who has already supplied us with many excellent educational works, stepping forth with a book on "Popular Natural History," which, judging from the first part, now lying before us, promises to combine sound information with a high style of art-illustrations on the subject.

TOBACCO FLAVOURED BY ALLSPICE.—(To the Editor.)—In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of Saturday, April 9, I read an account from Jamaica that pimento is smoked there instead of tobacco. This is not quite correct, and I shall be obliged if you will put the matter right for your readers' information. The pimento is coarsely powdered and mixed with the cut tobacco for smoking in pipes—the proportion is one of pimento to three of tobacco. In making cigars the pimento is pounded or ground rather finer, and about ten grains rolled in each cigar. By this addition the common tobacco is found to be equal to the finest Lakia for smoking, and the common cigar equal to the finest Havannah.—JNO. CASTLE, Clevedon.

MUSIC.

The untimely death of MADAME BOSIO is the extinction of one of the brightest stars of the musical art which have shone in our time. As an artist, the name of Angiolina Bosio will go down to posterity along with those of Catalani, Malibran, and Pasta; while by many who knew her in private life she will be lamented, not only as a captivating but (what is better) as an estimable and amiable woman. She has been cut off in the flower of her days; having, we understand, reached the age only of one or two and thirty; and the deplorable news of her death reached London while the lovers of music were looking forward to the renewal of the enjoyment derived from her charms and her talents. Madame Bosio came to England for the first time in 1852. She had not then gained a great Continental reputation, and for some short time her appearances on the Covent Garden stage made little impression. But being suddenly called upon to perform *Elvira*, in "Il Puritani," in consequence of the absence of Grisi (to whom that part then belonged), she sang the sweet music so exquisitely, and was altogether so delightful a picture of Bellini's most interesting heroine, that the audience applauded her with transport. From that time she became a [greater and greater favourite of the public, and for some seasons past has been the sheet-anchor of the Royal Italian Opera. The intelligence of her loss must have been a heavy blow to the lessee; but we hear that he has engaged Madame Penco, the prima donna of the Paris Italian Opera, in her room. We are inclined to think that, under the circumstances, he could not have made a better choice. Meanwhile the theatre is to reopen on Easter Monday with "La Gazza Ladra," Mlle. Lotti as *Ninetta*, and Ronconi as the *Podestà*.

The DRURY-LANE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA opens on Easter Monday; the entertainments of the evening are not yet announced.

Theatrical performances being interdicted in Passion Week, it has been a week of concerts. There have been two or three every day. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, "Popular Concerts" at St. James's Hall; on Monday afternoon an admirable performance at the Hanover-square Rooms, by the New Glee and Madrigal Union; on Tuesday evening "Elijah," under the direction of Mr. Hullah, at St. Martin's Hall; and on Wednesday, at Exeter Hall, the Sacred Harmonic Society's annual Passion-Week performance of "The Messiah." The various musical entertainments during the week have drawn crowded audiences.

We learn from New Orleans that Mlle. Piccolomini has quarrelled with Mr. Ullman, the well-known American entrepreneur, to whom the little prima donna's engagement was transferred. The cause of the dispute and subsequent separation is not mentioned; but Piccolomini remains for the present at New Orleans, and is to continue her concert tour along with most of the members of the opera company; Mr. Muzio, the agent sent over by Mr. Lumley to look after his interest during Piccolomini's engagement, acting as the director of the troupe.

THE THEATRES, &c.

At the HAYMARKET, on Monday, Mr. Adams delivered his usual lecture on astronomy, in which he introduced the latest discoveries in the sciences, and dwelt particularly on the subject of comets, relative to which he read an interesting letter from Mr. Hinde. The oratory, by which the lecture was illustrated, exceeded in magnificence that of the former seasons. We find that the present is the twenty-ninth year that Mr. Adams has performed this laudable service for the public education during Passion Week. The house was very respectably filled. Also, on Monday, at SADLER'S WELLS, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul appeared in their most successful entertainment of "Patchwork."—At the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS Mrs. Emilius Holcroft delivered her popular lecture on "The Difficulties of the English Language."—At ST. JAMES'S MINOR HALL the Christy's Minstrels, and at the ADELPHI GALLERY the Ohio Minstrels, appeared. At ST. MARTIN'S HALL Clara Seyton introduced her "Omibus."—The quadrupedal wonders from the Cirque Napoleon made their debut at ASTLEY'S; and Jim Myers, proprietor of the Great American Circus, also made his at the PAVILION.—At the ALHAMBRA PALACE the Bull Fight continues its attraction, which has been so great that the arena, the closing of which was announced, still remains open. The Delevanti Family, the Sprites of the Silver Shower, and the Californian Troupe appear at each performance.—At the GRECIAN THEATRE Mrs. Conquest's pupils appeared in "The Corsair," and Professor Logrenia in his entertainment. There are also Mr. G. W. Ross in Spanish Minstrels, and "An Hour in Venice," with which the performance concludes—a full bill of fare for visitors in search of amusement.—Of the panoramas, BURFORD'S of Lucknow maintains its popularity; and the new dioramas of the GREAT GLOBE, presenting views of the Chinese and Japanese Coasts and Cities, and the Sites and Scenes of the Indian Revolt, are highly interesting to festival sight-seers.—The ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION is still engaged with the moving panorama of the Mammoth Cave, its views of the Niagara, and its famous set scene of the Victoria Tubular Bridge.—The COLOSSEUM has a great variety of entertainments, including the Boone Children, comic sketches, astronomical lectures, and the mysteries of magic and clairvoyance.—MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION continues to be well patronised, and to add to its gallery of character, which now includes the Pope, Napoleon III., the Emperor of Austria, and the Kings of Sardinia and Naples.—The POLYTECHNIC maintains its title to pre-eminence in educational utility and scientific illustration. The dissolving views of Palestine, after Roberts, are magnificent; the lectures by Lennox, Horne, Gardner, and King are decidedly instructive. The oxy-hydrogen microscope is most attractive; and the philosophy of magic incontrovertibly amusing and exciting. The attendance is numerous. We reserve to the last, as the crowning exhibition, that of Mr. Albert Smith, who at the EGYPTIAN HALL still chats, or discourses, or sings, according to the mood of his familiar, on China and the Chinese. All these places have been liberally patronised by the holiday public; and it is certainly gratifying to reflect that these amusements, thus profusely supplied for the occupation of the public mind, are unexceptionable in point of morality, and in some cases are replete with information well calculated not only to store the intellect, but to serve the purpose of individual elevation, and to aid in the formation of an estimable character.

SKETCHES IN LUCKNOW.

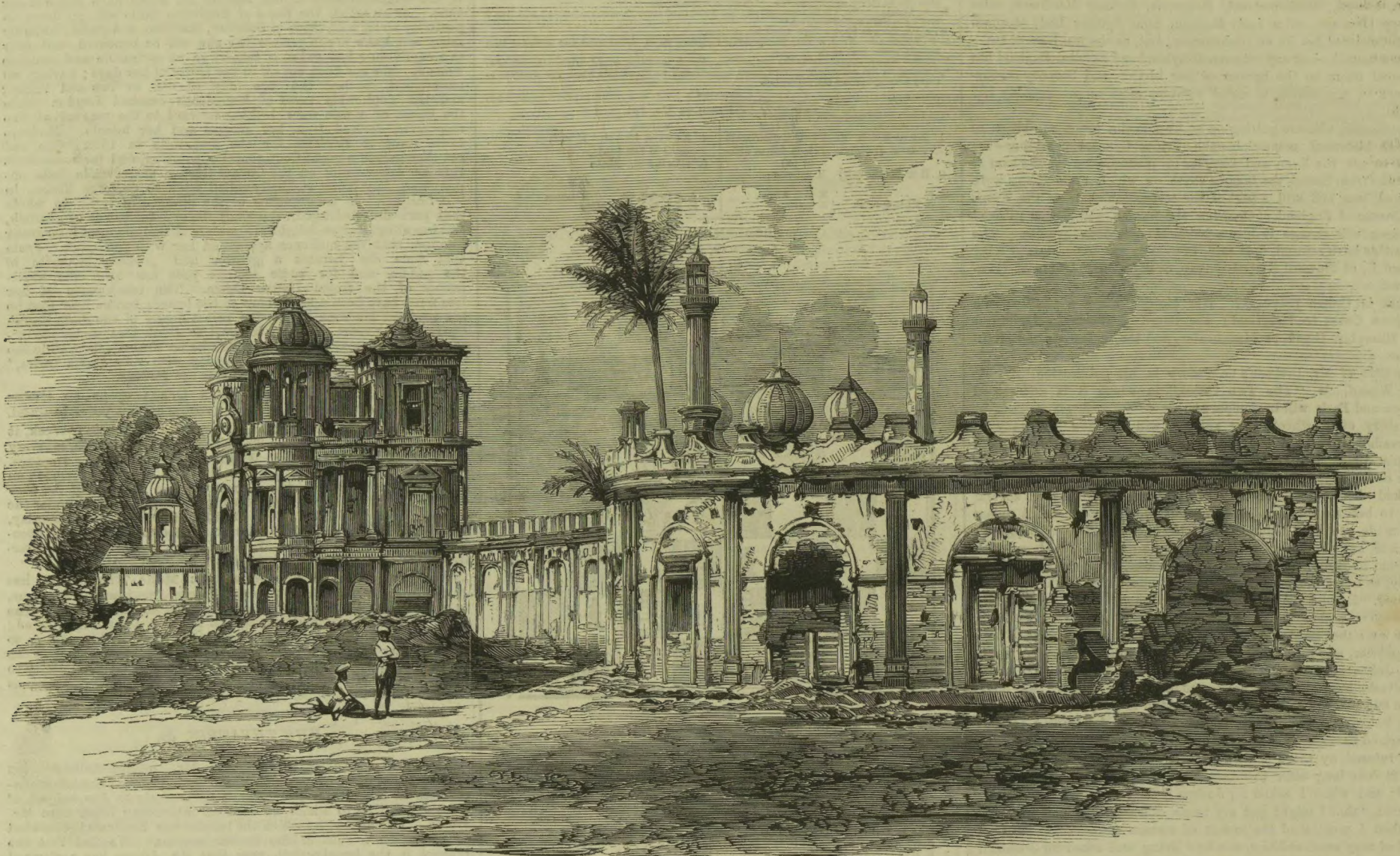
THE SECUNDRABAGH.

THE extensive building called Secundrabagh (Alexander's Garden) is situated to the north-east of Lucknow, and formed one of the advanced posts of the mutineers. It was made the object of attack by Lord Clyde, on the 16th of November, in his advance from the Alumbagh. The building, being formed of strong masonry, placed in the midst of a large garden, encircled by a high wall, which was loopholed in all directions, and having barred windows all round, possessed great advantages for defence, which were made the most of by the enemy, by whom it was strongly garrisoned. As it stood directly in the way of the relieving force it was necessary that it should be taken, and it was at once stormed and captured under circumstances which competent authorities state make the assault of the Secundrabagh not to be surpassed by any action in the annals of modern warfare. The enemy resisted desperately the small body of our men, who were harassed and fatigued by the forced marches they had made and the hardships which they had undergone; but, after three hours' desperate fighting, the position was carried, with a loss to the enemy of two thousand men.

THE BAILEY GUARD.

THE position occupied by the besieged at Lucknow, which was called the Bailey Guard, was part of the defences of the Residency. It has been described as a continuation of the hospital, but built on ground which descended considerably. Part of it was used as a store-room, part as a treasury, part as an office, and the remainder as barracks for the native soldiers who composed the guard. It is stated to have been by no means a strong position. The gateway was lofty, but was blocked up with earth, and, in the event of its being

S K E T C H E S F R O M L U C K N O W.

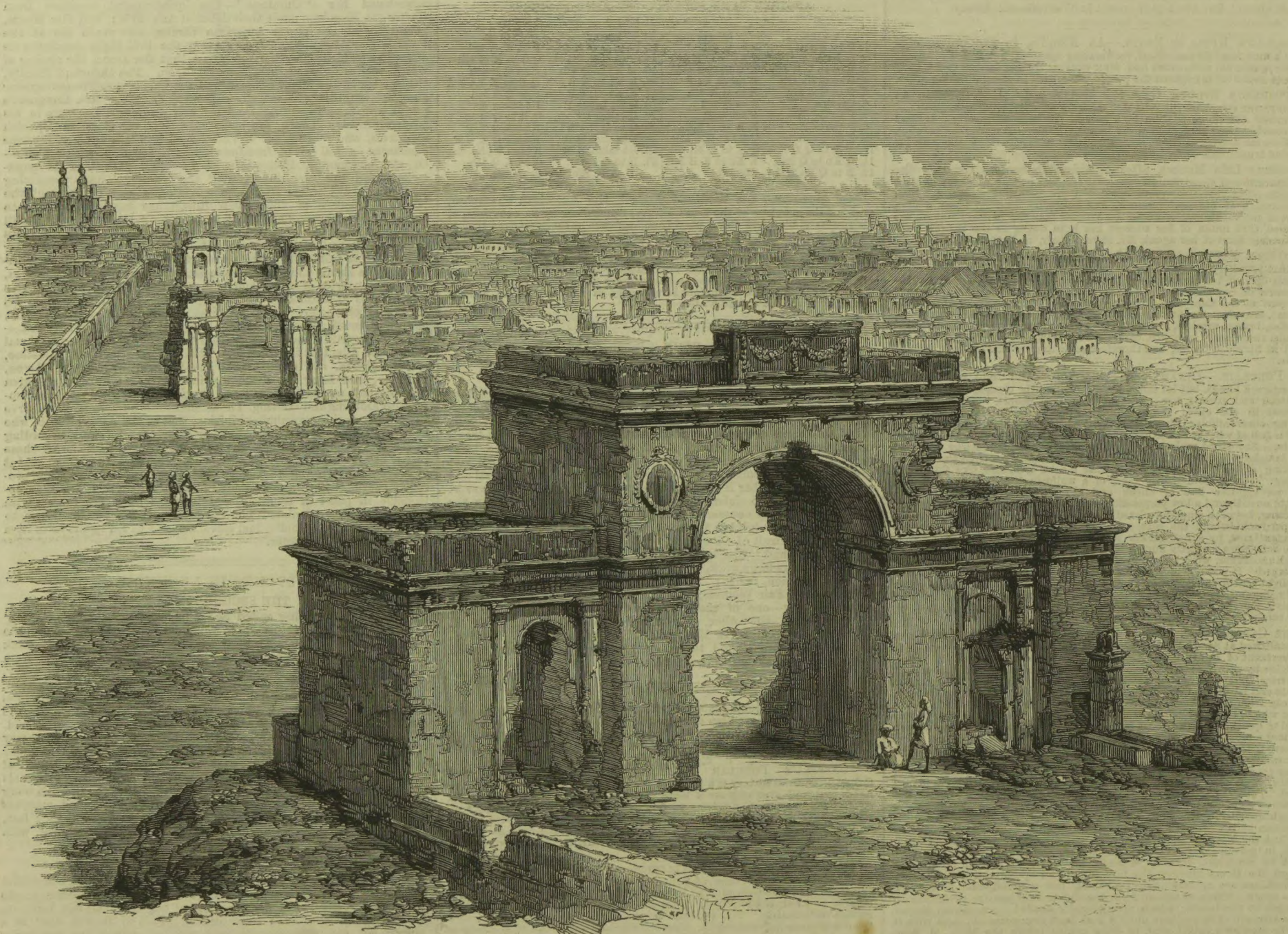


THE SECUNDRAGH.

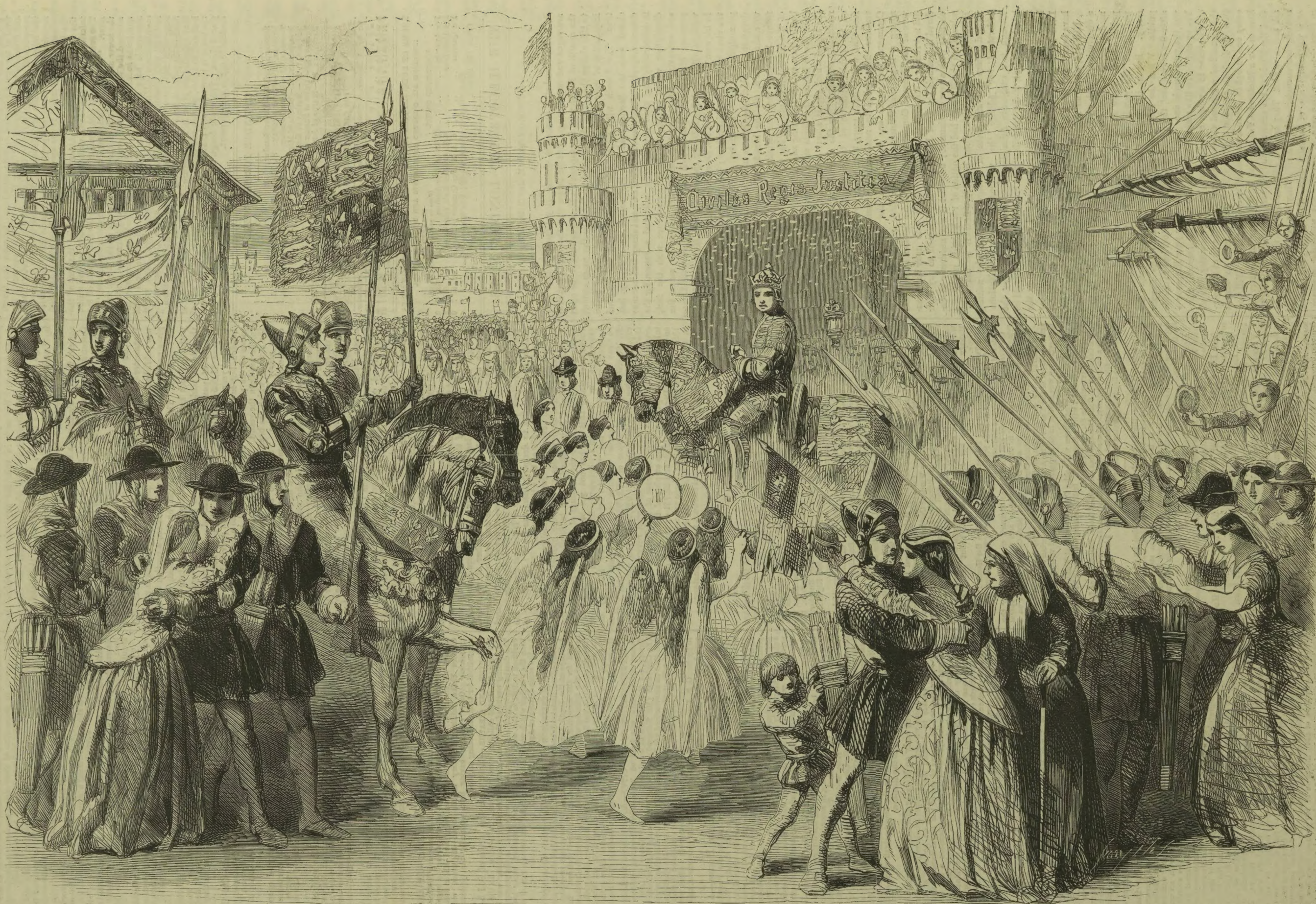
forced, was commanded by two nine-pounder guns and an eight-inch howitzer. It was at this point that the troops assembled on the day on which they marched out on that expedition which resulted in the

unfortunate battle of Chinhutt. The Bailey Guard was, of course, the object of continual attacks by the mutineers, one of the severest of which took place on the 20th of July, the day on which Sir Henry

Lawrence received the wound which ultimately proved mortal. The illustration which we give presents a view of the Bailey Guard Gate, showing the enemy's position facing it.



THE BAILEY GUARD GATE.



SCENE FROM "HENRY THE FIFTH" AT THE PRINCESS THEATRE.—HENRY V ENTERING LONDON AFTER THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.—SEE NEXT PAGE.

HENRY V. ENTERING LONDON AFTER THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

We have this week given an illustration from Mr. C. Kean's revival of the grand historical episode introduced between the fourth and fifth acts of the tragedy of "King Henry V." It represents the reception of the Royal victor by the Londoners on his return from the marvellous battle of Agincourt. The scene is partly due to the invention of Mr. Kean, and partly to the chronicle left us by an eyewitness of the events. It was upon a Saturday, long wished for, that the King's entry took place. Then went forth the citizens to meet the King—the Mayor and Aldermen in scarlet, and the rest of the inferior citizens in red suits, with particoloured hoods, red and white. The scene represents Old London-bridge from the Surrey side of the river. "When they had come," says the anonymous chronicler, "to the tower at the approach of the bridge, banners of the Royal arms adorned the tower, elevated on its turrets, and trumpets, clarions, and horns sounded in various melody; and behind the tower were innumerable boys representing angels, arrayed in white, and with countenances shining with gold, and glittering wings, and virgin locks set with precious sprigs of laurel, who, at the King's approach, sang with melodious voices, and with organs, an English anthem." Such is the point of time selected by our Artist. It will be remarked that episodes are given in the picture—the affectionate meetings of husband and wife, parent and child. The inscription on the wall of the tower is historical, and that stated by the chronicler to have been placed there. The whole design is one of great interest, and highly creditable to the management.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, April 24.—Easter Sunday.
MONDAY, 25.—Easter Monday. St. Mark. Princess Alice born, 1843.
TUESDAY, 26.—Easter Tuesday. David Hume born, 1711.
WEDNESDAY, 27.—Straits of Magellan discovered, 1521.
THURSDAY, 28.—Mutiny of the *Bounty*, 1769.
FRIDAY, 29.—Duke of Sussex died, 1843.
SATURDAY, 30.—Statue of Jenner erected, 1858. J. Montgomery d., 1854.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 1859.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
6 14	6 29	7 6	7 38	8 17	8 58	9 38
10 15	10 51	11 28	12 11	12 51	1 31	2 11
3 11	3 51	4 31	5 11	5 51	6 31	7 11
9 11	9 51	10 31	11 11	11 51	12 31	1 11
4 11	4 51	5 31	6 11	6 51	7 31	8 11
10 11	10 51	11 31	12 11	12 51	1 31	2 11

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1859.

It is an old and stale complaint against Royal Speeches that they are vague and unmeaning. But far better that the words put into the mouth of Royalty by its responsible Ministers should be open to this charge than that they should be liable to the more serious imputation of only ceasing to be meaningless by ceasing to be true. The Speech with which the Derby-Disraeli Government closed both the Session and the Parliament on Tuesday last deserves reprobation, not because it was curt and sharp, but because it deliberately, and most unnecessarily, asserted a reason for the dissolution which is not strictly in accordance with the fact, and endeavoured to distort contemporary history to serve the purposes of a party. The Speech might have been passed over without notice had Lord Derby spoken it in the House of Lords in his own person, or had Mr. Disraeli issued it in a manifesto to the electors of Buckinghamshire; but, when such statements are promulgated to the Parliament of Great Britain in an official document to which the Queen's name is attached, it is imperative to make known, for the benefit of foreign nations and of the future historian, that the Ministry have abused the confidence of the Sovereign by making her name the medium of what is no better than an electioneering address. When the Ministers make their Queen inform the Lords and Commons of her Empire that the appeal which she is about to make to her people has been rendered "necessary" by the difficulties experienced in carrying on the public business of the country, as indicated by the fact that within little more than a year two successive Administrations have failed to retain the confidence of the House of Commons, they make one small truth the means of disseminating a large misstatement. In the first place, the recent vote of the House of Commons on Lord John Russell's resolution did not render a dissolution necessary. That vote may have rendered it desirable for Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli to try their chances with a new Parliament; but that it was necessary to dissolve when the Ministry had the option of resignation not even a Royal Speech can make any one believe, unless it be the uninformed rulers and statesmen of foreign nations, who neither understand nor admire the working of our institutions. Though two successive Administrations were outvoted by the late Parliament, it did not follow that no Administration could be formed, unless either Lord Palmerston or Lord Derby were at the head of it; or that, if Lord Derby had imitated the example of Lord Palmerston and resigned office, no other statesman could have been found possessed of the confidence of the majority.

Hitherto, when an Administration, Whig or Tory, has advised a dissolution, "with a view to enable the people to express, in the mode prescribed by the Constitution, their opinion on the state of public affairs," there has been invariably some kind of an issue put before the people on which they could pronounce decisively. But in the present instance there is nothing before the public. When the Emperor Napoleon appealed to the French after the *coup d'état*, the question which the electors had to decide was the very simple one, "Will you have me for your Emperor—Yes or no?" In like manner Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, without reference to a policy or a principle, throw the country into all the turmoil of a general election, at a moment the most inopportune, to decide a question that is utterly unimportant to almost every one except to themselves and their colleagues—"Will you have us for a Ministry—Yes or No?" We know of no services that the Ministry has rendered to the country to entitle them to ask such a verdict. They are not good enough for the "Yes," and scarcely bad enough for the "No." They are merely the chiefs of a party who are of opinion that they ought to remain in power—not for the sake of carrying any particular measure, or giving effect to any particular policy, foreign or domestic—

but for the sake, purely and simply, of the possession of office, its honours, and its emoluments. If they might have been supposed to have had a policy in the Reform question, they have abandoned it. We seek in vain for any other on which they appeal to the constituencies; and when they tell the country, through the Queen's Speech, that the object of the dissolution is, "under the blessing of Providence, to facilitate the discharge of her high functions" by the Sovereign, they bring a charge against the late Parliament which is utterly untenable, use the Queen's name very unjustifiably, and raise a purely factious and personal issue before every constituency in the empire.

POST OFFICE STATISTICS.—The fifth Annual Report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office, being that for the year 1858, was published on Tuesday. In the compass of fifty octavo pages it gives much valuable and interesting information, a portion of which we reproduce. The report commences by stating that, although postal facilities have been much increased and reductions made in the rate of postage, there has been an increase of revenue. The number of post-offices has been augmented. Thus, there are at present 11,235 throughout the United Kingdom, being 134 more than last year. Road letter-boxes have been provided, not only in London, but in the large towns, according to a new estimate of the wants of the population. Much additional accommodation to the public has been the result. When the arrangements connected with the revision which has been carried out are completed, and this has now nearly been done, "no house in London, unless in some exceptional cases, will be more than a quarter of a mile from a money-order office, or more than a furlong from either a receiving-office or a road letter-box; and in the neighbourhood of the Royal Exchange, where the greatest number of letters is posted, the maximum distance will be still less." The increase in the number of the road letter-boxes has facilitated the dispatch of letters by the morning mails, and has rendered it practicable to anticipate by one hour the last evening collection. The total number of these boxes is now 1168, being an increase of 465 upon that of last year. The new arrangements connected with the London districts are being so fully carried out that in a very short period the time between the posting and delivery of a letter will, in the Postmaster-General's words, be reduced "to almost a minimum of time." The total number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom during 1858 was as follows:—England, 428,000,000; Ireland, 44,000,000; Scotland, 51,000,000; making in all 523,000,000. As compared with 1857, this shows an increase of 19,000,000; and as compared with the year previous to the introduction of the penny postage (1839), an increase of 447,000,000. An important fact in connection with the above statistics remains to be noticed. It is that, of the whole number of letters which passed through the Post Office last year, nearly a fourth were delivered in London and the suburban districts. The number of registered letters last year was nearly 1,300,000, or one registered letter to about 400 ordinary letters. The number of newspapers delivered in Great Britain last year was about 71,000,000, much the same as in the two previous years. The number of letters returned to the writers from inability to decipher them was about 1,700,000, or at the rate of one in every 300 of the whole number. From the same cause about 570,000 newspapers remained undelivered. During the last year 127 new money-order offices were opened—viz., 104 in England and Wales, 14 in Ireland, and 9 in Scotland; making the whole number 2360. Under the heading of "Foreign Posts" the Postmaster states that he has not yet been able to effect an improvement in the mails between London and Paris, or London and Ostend, but that he hopes to be able to do so ere long. The gross revenue of the year 1858 was £3,100,939, being an increase of £82,792 upon that of 1857. The expenditure for 1858 amounts to £1,926,045. The net revenue—that is to say, the difference between the gross revenue and expenditure—was £1,330,885, or an increase of £25,714 upon 1857. The total number of persons in the employ of the Post Office was 24,372 on the 31st of December, 1858, and 23,731 on the 31st of December, 1857. In the chief London office there are now above 1700 officers; in the whole London district, 3300. The health of the men is reported to be good, and their general conduct most satisfactory.

THE COURT.

The Queen gave audiences on Saturday week, at Buckingham Palace, to M. Toussaint and M. Madion, Envoys Extraordinary from Hayti, to announce the establishment of the Haytian Republic. The Prince Consort, accompanied by his Royal Highness the Duke of Oporto (who had arrived on a visit to her Majesty on the previous evening, from Southampton), rode out on horseback in the morning, and in the afternoon visited the British Museum. The Royal dinner party included the Princess Alice, the Duke of Oporto, Earl Delawarr, the Earl and Countess of Suffolk, the Earl and Countess of Eglinton, Lord Stanley, Lord and Lady Burghersh, Lord and Lady Worsley, Right Hon. B. Disraeli, Colonel the Right Hon. Cecil Forester, and Sir John Lawrence.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince Consort, the Princesses Alice, Helena, and Louise, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace. The Rev. Charles Kingsley preached the sermon.

On Monday the Queen held a Privy Council at Buckingham Palace, at which Parliament was ordered to be prorogued until the 5th of May. Mr. Justice Hill was presented to her Majesty at an audience, kissed hands on his appointment as one of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, and received from her Majesty the honour of knighthood. The Earl of Derby, Sir John Pakington, the Marquis of Salisbury, Major-General Peel, and the Duke of Beaufort had audiences of the Queen. The Queen and Prince Consort left Buckingham Palace for Windsor Castle at twenty-five minutes before four o'clock, accompanied by Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and the Princesses Alice, Helena, Louise, and Beatrice. A detachment of light dragoons escorted the Royal party from the Palace to the Great Western Railway terminus at Paddington. A special train conveyed her Majesty to Windsor, where her Majesty arrived about half-past four o'clock.

On Tuesday the Queen and Prince Consort walked in the Home Park, and visited the Duchess of Kent at Frogmore. The Earl of Malmesbury had the honour of dining with her Majesty.

On Wednesday the Queen and the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Princess Alice, drove out in an open carriage and four. Their Royal Highnesses the Reigning Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg arrived on a visit to her Majesty and the Prince Consort.

On Thursday the confirmation of the Princess Alice took place in the private chapel of the Castle. The Archbishop of Canterbury officiated, and the ceremony was similar in all respects to that observed when the Princess Royal was confirmed.

To-day (Saturday) the Queen will hold a Privy Council at Windsor Castle, at which Parliament will be dissolved. In the evening there will be a grand musical performance in St. George's Hall.

The Countess of Gainsborough has succeeded Lady Churchill as Lady in Waiting to her Majesty. Viscount Strathallan and Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Stovin have succeeded Lord Bateman and Lieutenant-Colonel F. Cavendish as Lord and Groom in Waiting.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Oporto, attended by his Excellency Count de Lavradio, Lieutenant-General Vicomte de Campanha, and Captain Sergio, went on Monday to inspect the *Great Eastern* steam-ship. His Royal Highness took leave of the Queen at Buckingham Palace on her departure for Windsor Castle, and left London in the afternoon for Southampton.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, attended by Lady Susan Melville and Sir George Couper, left Clarence House, St. James's, on Saturday, for her residence, Frogmore.

The Duke and Duchess of Wellington have left Apsley House to pass the holidays at Stratfieldsaye, Hants.

The Earl and Countess of Clarendon and family left town on Thursday for The Grove, near Watford.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston have left Cambridge House for their seat, Broadlands, for the Easter holidays.

Lord and Lady John Russell and the Misses Russell left Chesham-place on Monday, for Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park.

C. Baillie, Esq., her Majesty's Advocate for Scotland, has been made one of the Lords of Session in Scotland, in the room of Sir J. A. Murray, deceased. The office of her Majesty's Advocate for Scotland has been granted to D. Muro, Esq., her Majesty's Solicitor-General for Scotland, in the room of C. Baillie.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The President, Vice-President, and members of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours have addressed a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury in prosecution of their claim to share in the benefits to be derived from a permanent National Palace of Art in Piccadilly.

A meeting of sympathy with the Neapolitan exiles was held in St. Martin's Hall on Friday se'night. Mr. P. A. Taylor occupied the chair. Several of the exiles were present. The reading of an address of sympathy, and of a suitable reply, formed part of the proceedings.

As the workmen at the Westminster new Bridge works were moving a block of stone with a travelling crane on Tuesday the machinery gave way and the stone fell, striking a man named Jones, who fell into the water and was killed. Several others were much injured.

An extensive and curious collection of playbills was sold by Messrs. Southgate and Barrett on the 8th inst., and is supposed to have been purchased for the British Museum. These documents date from about 1787, and extend to 1852. Their weight exceeds 16 cwt.

The Regius Professor of Laws will resume his lectures on Monday, the 9th of May, at eleven a.m., in the law schools, continuing the subject with which he was engaged during the past term. This course of lectures is intended only for those gentlemen who are preparing for the examination for the degree of LL.B.

On Thursday week Messrs. Caldesi and Montecchi, photographic artists, Pall-mall East, attended, by command of her Majesty, at Buckingham Palace, to execute a series of photographs of their Royal Highnesses the Princes and Princesses, in the costume which they wore on the occasion of the recent fancy ball.

DISTRIBUTION OF HER MAJESTY'S BOUNTIES.—On Monday morning the annual customary Royal bounties and gate-money were distributed to the aged and necessitous poor, at the Royal Almonry, Whitehall, under the direction of the Lord High Almoner, the Lord Bishop of Oxford, Sub-Almoner, Dr. Jelf, and Mr. Hanby.

PUBLIC DRINKING-FOUNTAINS.—The ceremony of opening and "giving away" the first free public drinking-fountain erected in London took place at St. Sepulchre's Church on Thursday. We reserve the particulars till next week, when we shall give an Engraving of this interesting ceremony.

OUR NATIONAL DEFENCES.—A meeting on the subject of our national defences was held on Saturday evening last, at St. Martin's Hall—Sir C. Napier in the chair. The attendance was slight, there not being above a hundred persons in the body of the hall. Resolutions were passed pointing out the defenceless state of the country, and urging the need of an efficient Channel fleet.

The National Scotch Church, Regent-square, is advertised for sale by auction by Messrs. Rushworth and Jarvis. It appears from the printed particulars that the church was erected in 1827, and intended for a congregation of 1500, but since its erection various alterations have been made in the interior, and at the present time it affords accommodation for 1000 persons.

THE SALE OF COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.—At the Bow-street Police Court, on Monday, Edward Mortimer and Thomas Robert Marshall were re-examined on the charge of conspiring to negotiate the sale of an ensigncy. The Duke of Cambridge and Major-General Sir Charles Yorke, military secretary to his Royal Highness, were both examined. Other evidence having been adduced, the prisoners were committed for trial, bail being accepted.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—Last week the births of 865 boys and 771 girls, in all 1636 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1849-58 the average number was 1655. The deaths registered in London, which were 1201 in the previous week, declined to 1084 in the week that ended last Saturday, being less by 146 than the number which would have occurred if the average rate of mortality for the second week of April had prevailed.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—The prize drawings of the Metropolitan District Schools of Art will be exhibited during the Easter holidays at the South Kensington Museum, in the rooms provisionally prepared for the reception of the Vernon and Turner pictures. The classrooms of the training school will also be open during the holidays for the inspection of the public. The visitors to the museum last week were:—On Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday, free days, 3776; on Monday and Tuesday, free evenings, 666; on the three students' days (admission to the public, 6d.), 692; one students' evening, Wednesday, 114; total, 6248.

REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY.—A very large meeting of the Conservative party was held on Wednesday afternoon, at the London Tavern, for the purpose of considering the candidature of Lord Stanley. The Chairman (Mr. Kennard) said that Mr. Baring had declined to stand, and that no answer had yet been received from Lord Stanley, who had been seized with sudden illness, and was unable to write. He should advise the meeting to determine that, whether Lord Stanley consented to stand or not, they should put him in nomination. A resolution to this effect was spoken to by Mr. G. F. Young, Mr. W. Chapman, and other gentlemen, and carried, with but one dissentient, amidst loud cheers.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOIREE AT THE MANSION HOUSE.—A dinner was given by the Lord Mayor, on Friday week, to the President (Mr. Glaisher) and Council of the Blackheath Photographic Society. The guests, to the number of 500, commenced assembling shortly after eight o'clock. The photographs, some of the most remarkable yet exhibited, were arrayed along the corridor leading to the Egyptian Hall and in the hall itself, which presented a magnificent *coup d'œil*. It would be invidious to mention any particular works where all were beautiful; but the spirited society in whose behalf the hospitality of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress was so kindly manifested was by no means the least conspicuous in the exhibition of original works illustrating the progress and development of photographic art.

THE JUDGES AND THE CORPORATION AT ST. PAUL'S.—Sunday, the 17th inst., being the first in Easter Term, the Judges met the Corporation of the city of London at St. Paul's, in accordance with ancient custom, to hear Divine service in the cathedral. The Lord Mayor was attended by the Sheriffs, Mr. Alderman Hale and Mr. Alderman Conder, Mr. Under-Sheriff Surr, Alderman Sir G. Carroll, Sir J. Musgrove, Bart., and other Aldermen, with about thirty members of the Common Council, the Common Sergeant, and other civic officers. The Judges present were Mr. Justice Williams, Mr. Justice Crowder, Mr. Justice Willes, and Mr. Justice Hill, and Barons Watson and Channell. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Champneys, M.A., from the twenty-sixth verse of the third chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

A FIRE broke out early on Monday morning at a house in Peckham, and four persons who were at the upper windows piteously crying for help—being unable to descend the staircase on account of the dense smoke—were rescued by means of one of the Royal Society's fire-escapes, which was quickly on the spot. On Sunday afternoon a fire, occasioned by the overheating of a furnace, broke out in St. Mark's Chapel, Fulham, the property of the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor, and was not subdued until a serious amount of damage had been done, two-thirds of the roof being destroyed. On Tuesday morning, at a few minutes before two o'clock, a fire broke out at No. 4, Church-street, Soho, let out in several tenements. When an entry was made, the back parlour was on fire, and in the midst of the flames was found a female, named Carlisle, burnt in a shocking manner.

ARTISTS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.—A dinner was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday last—Viscount Hardinge in the chair—to celebrate the forty-fourth anniversary of the institution. Sir C. Eastlake, Sir E. Landseer, Sir W. James, Mr. Frith, Mr. Creswick, and several artists of note were among the guests, who numbered about one hundred and twenty. In proposing the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Association," the noble Chairman said that it was most gratifying to find that, since the establishment of the association, upwards of £20,000 had been distributed in relieving artists in every branch of the fine arts. It was a peculiar and highly creditable feature of this association that its expenses, compared with the relief afforded, were so small. Exclusive of the expenses connected with the annual festival, the yearly expenses did not amount to more than £160, or not more than eight per cent upon the amount distributed. The subscriptions for the evening amounted to about £530.

GENERAL THEATRICAL FUND.—On Monday evening the anniversary festival of this charity took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, when more than 200 gentlemen sat down to dinner—Mr. Charles Mathews presiding. Everything passed off with the utmost élan and success. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been disposed of with an unwonted display of enthusiasm, the Chairman gave the toast of the evening. His speech was of a humorous kind, mixed up with professional jokes and laughable allusions to the colleagues by whom he was surrounded. The toast was coupled with the name of Mr. Buckstone, the treasurer, who in reply warmly congratulated the company on the progress of the fund and the fair prospects which seemed opening up for it in the future. The funded stock, he said, now amounted to upwards of £11,000, and the payments out of the yearly income included annuities of £30, £50, and £80 per annum, the large majority of the recipients of which were ladies. The rules of the fund permitted singers, dancers, and pantomimists to belong to it, and any members whose period of subscription reached seven years became entitled to an annuity from the fund. The report of the fund for last year showed that the total income amounted to £1820, while the expenditure fell short of that sum by £460, which balance had been transferred to the funded property of the association. Towards the close of the evening the secretary announced a list of subscriptions of £500, inclusive of 100 guineas from her Majesty. The musical arrangements were of the very best kind, and included some of the most eminent vocalists of the day, all of whom gave their services gratuitously.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued on Tuesday, with a view to its dissolution to-day (Saturday). Electioneering matters alone will occupy the activity and energy of the country for some time to come, and even the chances of war will be partially forgotten in the chances of the hustings. The Speech from the Throne was delivered by the Lord Chancellor, and it contained assertions which have not so completely escaped question as is usual with addresses of the kind. It is, of course, looked upon as a grand election address by the Cabinet, not as any intimation of the feeling of the most exalted person in the realm. Lord Derby is pleased to say that dissolution was rendered necessary because two Cabinets have failed to obtain the confidence of the House. While the state of parties permitted a third Cabinet to try its fortunes, the ordinary resources of statesmanship can hardly be said to have been exhausted. However, *jacta est alea*; and now to see what Mercury and Plutus, gods of twin "persuasion," can do for the noble translator of "*Donec gratus eram*."

That war has not broken out in the South is a fact which may be regarded with thankfulness. Beyond this, and into the domain of hopefulness, it is premature to go, notwithstanding that the very latest advices are of a somewhat more pacific character. There was not much in the Ministerial explanations on Monday to excite belief in the peaceful dispositions of the two Great Powers, consisting, as these explanations mainly did, in a recapitulation of the various steps in negotiations which had failed. The best chance for Europe is in the belief of the Tuileries, first, that the French army is not yet in condition to contend with the outnumbering and better-armed forces of Austria; and, secondly, that a rupture between England and France might by no means be impossible in the event of precipitated conflict.

"War no longer exists in India." Such is the welcome language of the latest telegrams. The work of hauling down some of the principal enemies of English rule is not, however, complete, nor will it be while the Nana lives, if, after he has been executed, we may pardon the rest. A more embarrassing task lies before the rulers of India—the rearrangement of a system of finance, which has been a signal failure. It has to be done, however, and the sooner that cool and fearless heads assemble for the work the better. The very interesting ceremonial of thanking Lord Clyde, Lord Canning, and the services, for their exploits in India, has been duly performed by Parliament, and it must have been highly gratifying to Lord Derby that, while he was calling upon the Lords to honour the deeds of our soldiers, his son was performing the same office in the House of Commons.

The First Lord of the Admiralty was not likely to escape from the contest regarding his behaviour to certain Junior Lords without "a word of a sort" from the person most interested, Captain Carnegie, who is one of the last men in the world to commit, or allow himself to be charged with committing, an unworthy act. The Hon. Captain S. T. Carnegie is the son of the late Earl of Northesk, and commanded the *Tribune* in the Baltic expedition. He is a capital sailor, and a man of other ability, and certainly he should not have been driven from the administrative service of his country without some better reason than that he declined to fight a hopeless election battle. The gallant Captain explains (in a letter which will by no means tend to please Sir John) that he had endeavoured to fulfil his agreement about entering Parliament, but that he could only have succeeded at Dover by the use of means "to which he would not condescend." Now, what could they have been? And could Sir J. Pakington wish him to employ them? What a strange mystery!

Lord Derby has informed Lord Campbell—who very properly insists upon having the clock tower finished—that he thinks the clock will be in its place before the Houses meet again. We need hardly say that we have not the very strongest confidence in this qualified promise; and believe that, whether it is Barry, or Denison, or Nobody who is in fault, the question will have to be asked again before the answer is given in the tones of Big Ben. Really, the dawdling in the case of this clock has been so transcendent as to acquire the rank of an institution.

The Postmaster-General's fifth report is an interesting one. It speaks of the constantly-increasing communication between her Majesty's subjects. In regard to letters, there is an increase of nineteen millions upon the number in 1857, and the number is seven times what it was in 1839. The increase in the number of newspapers delivered by post is not marked: the number is nearly the same as in the last two years—about seventy-one millions. There were about seven millions and a quarter of book-packets last year.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, 29, Great George-street, Westminster, will be open to the public by tickets on Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, from ten to five o'clock. Tickets, procurable as usual from Messrs. Colnaghi, Messrs. Graves, and Mr. J. Smith (of New Bond-street), may be had also, on application, of Mr. Metcalf, stationer, 20, Parliament-street, and of Mr. Dufour, stationer, 17A, Great George-street, Westminster.

THE COMING ELECTIONS.—It is impossible, and if possible it would be too tedious a task, to chronicle in these columns all the fluctuations continually taking place in electioneering affairs. Whilst in some of the counties and boroughs the candidates are the same as previously specified in this Journal, in others candidates for Parliamentary honours come on the stage seemingly only to make their bow and retire. Possibly by another week matters will have somewhat settled down so as to allow us to take a clearer survey of the field than is now possible among the thousand and one conflicting reports of which every morning brings a new crop. Meanwhile we add a few scraps of election intelligence to those we have already given. At Abingdon the Conservatives have announced their candidate, Mr. Godfrey Hudson, who opposes the return of Mr. Norris, the present member. Mr. G. Boddington, a kind of Protectionist Chartist, appears in the field to oppose Mr. Bright at Birmingham. General Williams of Kars, after soliciting re-election, has withdrawn from Calne, to make way for Robert Lowe, the rejected of Kidderminster. Evesham finds a Liberal candidate in Mr. Edwin Chadwick. A second Liberal, the Hon. A. Vernon, is in the field for South Derbyshire. Mr. Huddleston is not to walk over the course for Kidderminster, being opposed by Mr. Montagu Smith, Q.C., in the Liberal interest. Captain Anson takes the place of Viscount Sandon at Lichfield without a contest. Colonel Shafto Adair is in the field for East Suffolk, opposing the re-election of the Conservative members. A second Conservative, Mr. G. C. Bentinck, has come forward for Taunton. Mr. Marshall has retreated from Walsall, but another Conservative candidate, Mr. Charles Bagnall, is in the field.

FOOD OF THE TUSCAN PEASANT.—Black bread, kidney beans, and porridge made of Indian corn, constitute, it may be said, the fare of the Tuscan peasant. Occasionally he has in the summer or autumn season a few luxuries, such as peas, tomatoes, cherries, figs, and chestnuts to vary his unattractive food. Milk he seldom tastes, for the Italian peasant's cow is looked upon as a means of rearing calves, and not of providing a nutritious beverage for himself and family; and butter, it may be said, as a general rule, is absolutely unknown. The wife of a peasant possessing several cows asked me one day what it was, then how it was made, and listened to my explanation with much apparent interest and curiosity. The butter I used at the baths of Monte Catini came, some thirty miles, from the dairy farms at Florence; and at Albano, a town containing several hundred inhabitants, the luxury was unprocureable: indeed, it is only in those places in Italy where the English congregate that butter is entitled to take its place in the list of Italian produce. From the ordinary dinner of the Tuscan peasant an English labourer would turn away with a sensation of scorn and disgust, and the more so when he found that a cup of water was to prove its only accompaniment. Not always, however, was the peasant solely indebted for a beverage to the neighbouring well or brook, for, up to a recent period, his vines, now worthless from the blight, afforded him a grateful, wholesome, and strengthening drink.—"*Life in Tuscany*," by Mabel Sharnen Crawford.

COUNTRY NEWS.

The sum of £1205 has been raised in aid of the proposed memorial to the late Augustus O'Brien Stafford, M.P., in Limerick Cathedral. About £400 more is required to complete the designs of the architect.

A JEWISH SYNAGOGUE, recently erected at the corner of John-street and George-street, Glasgow, was opened for worship on Saturday last—the Jewish Sabbath.

THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, COLCHESTER, according to the local papers, has been closed indefinitely, in consequence of the appearance of an immense number of minute insects, the presence of which is attributed to the disturbing of the earth during the progress of the recent restorations.

The East Suffolk Railway remains unopened, and the Earl of Stradbroke, the chairman of the company, has published a letter in which he observes that, unless it is made available for traffic on or before Monday, the 2nd of May, it will be desirable to call a meeting of shareholders and the public generally, at Ipswich, to ascertain who is to blame.

A COURT-MARTIAL took place on Tuesday on board the flag-ship *Victory*, at Portsmouth, to try Lieutenant-Commander John B. Scott for the loss of her Majesty's screw gun-boat *Jaseur*, recently reported. It resulted in Lieutenant Scott being fully acquitted, and the Second Master and gunner were recommended to the favourable consideration of the Admiralty.

THE SUPPOSED MURDER AT RAMSGATE.—The adjourned inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the deceased was held on Wednesday, at the Town-hall, before the Coroner, Mr. R. J. Emmerson, and the jury found the following verdict:—"That deceased died from a wound in the left breast, but by whom it was inflicted there is not sufficient evidence to show."

SIX PUBLIC DRINKING-FOUNTAINS have been erected in Salford by the Waterworks Committee of the Corporation, from designs by Mr. Denny, the resident engineer. They are made of cast-iron, and in design something like an ornamental pillar letter-box, each having a suitable basin and two galvanised iron ladles. The waste water from the basin runs into two small dog-troughs at the foot of the column raised a few inches above the pavement. The total cost of each fountain is about £10.

LAUNCH AT PEMBROKE DOCKYARD.—On Saturday evening last a splendid 91-gun steamer, with two decks, called the *Revenge*, was launched from Pembroke yard. The process of rigging will commence at once, and she will then proceed to Plymouth for commission, having been fully fitted for sea while on the stocks. The following are her principal dimensions:—Length between the perpendiculars, 244.9; length for tonnage, 200; extreme breadth, 55.4; breadth for tonnage, 54.6; breadth moulded, 53.8; depth in hold, 24.6. Her burden in tons is 2317.78-94; and her horse-power, 800.

DESTRUCTION OF KING'S NEWTON HALL.—This, one of the most interesting halls in Derbyshire, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The building for the last five or six years has been occupied by Richard Green, Esq., and family, and was so tenanted at the time of this disastrous calamity. King's Newton was built by a member of the Hardinge family about four hundred years ago, and was visited by King Charles II., in whose service the then occupant, another of the Hardinges, raised a troop of horse. Of late years King's Newton Hall has been the property of Lady Palmerston.

REFUSAL TO BURY IN CONSECRATED GROUND.—A correspondence has taken place between the Rev. L. Randolph, Vicar of East Garton, and Mr. Elijah Bew, a farmer residing at Eastbury, in consequence of the former refusing to inter a child of Mr. Bew's, who had a vault at East Garton, but did not reside in the parish. The ground of the Vicar's refusal was that the child had been baptised by a Wesleyan preacher. The Bishop of Oxford, on being referred to, replied that "the permission or refusal of burial in the churchyard to the non-parishioner is a matter entirely at the discretion of the incumbent, with which the Bishop has no power to interfere."

RACE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE TYNE.—The race for £100 a side on the Tyne, between Thomas White, of Bermondsey, London, and Robert Chambers, of Walker, Newcastle, came off on Monday evening, and was attended by thousands of spectators, there being fifty steam-boats engaged to accompany it, in addition to which the shores were thickly lined between the starting-point, High Level-bridge, and the finishing-point, Salswood Suspension-bridge. The men started beautifully together, and the conflict for half a mile was most determined. Ultimately Chambers drew away and came in first at the winning-post by five lengths.

FEARFUL BOILER ACCIDENT.—On Friday week the large boiler at the spinning-mill of the Messrs. Edward, at Scouringburn, Dundee, burst with great force, carrying along with it the entire side of the wing of the building in which it was placed. The building is a large one, three stories high, and unfortunately the people were all at work at the time. A woman passing along the street at the time of the accident was killed by some of the flying stones. Up to Saturday at noon thirty-four persons had been extricated, of whom sixteen were dead when discovered, and two others have since died.

DISCOVERY OF A LARGE QUANTITY OF ANCIENT COIN ON THE PRINCE CONSORT'S FARM.—A field called the hospital field, belonging to the Shaw farm estate, in the possession of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and abutting on the Long Walk, has recently undergone the process of thorough draining, the earth afterwards turned in, and the ground rolled. Three boys were subsequently employed to collect the loose stones, when, on Friday week, one of them picked up on the surface of the recently-removed earth a leaden case containing more than 150 pieces of silver coin, principally halfcrowns of the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., most of them being in admirable preservation. The coins were forwarded to her Majesty, and the lads suitably rewarded.

MONUMENT TO CRIMEAN HEROES.—A monument in memory of the officers and men of the 17th Leicestershire Regiment who fell in the Crimean War has just been erected in St. Martin's Church, Leicester. The monument, which was executed by Messrs. Lindley and Firm, has a noble appearance, and is placed under the window at the west entrance. The architectural portion of it is of oolite stone, and the tablet upon which the names are inscribed is of white marble. The style is medieval pointed. In the cinquefoil are the rose, shamrock, and thistle. In the centre of the base is an elaborately sculptured projecting shield, of white marble, bearing the regimental badge of the 17th, which is a Bengal tiger, surmounted by the British crown, and encircled by a garland with the word "Leicestershire" upon it. The monument is thirteen feet in height, and six in width.

SUICIDE IN BLENHEIM PARK.—On Thursday week a gentleman, Antonio Arom de Ayala, said to be the Spanish Consul for Australia, committed suicide by shooting himself near the Home Farm in Blenheim Park. On his person were found two letters, one addressed by him to the landlady of the Bear Hotel, Woodstock, where he had been staying for some days; and another to the Duke of Marlborough, thus addressed:—"To his Lord the Duke of Marlborough, Blenheim Manor, or where he may be." In his letter to the Duke he begs that his Grace will pardon him for selecting his park for a place in which to end his life, and he observes that he has a feeling, which may be a childish one, that objects that he should die in cultivated fields, where cottages are, and railroads cross, and signs of life exist; therefore he has selected Blenheim Park for this purpose, and prays that the Duke will cause him to be buried at the spot where he has died, and cause a cross to be put up to note the place, according to the Spanish custom. On Friday and Saturday last an inquest was held on the body, and the jury returned the following open verdict:—"That the deceased came to his death by his own hand, but that there was no evidence of the state of his mind at the time of committing the act." From evidence given at the inquest it appears that the deceased had become very much involved in his circumstances.

The Surrey Gardens and Music Hall are to be submitted to the hammer at the Auction Mart on Friday next, the 29th inst., by Messrs. Rushworth and Jarvis. The premises are held under lease for twenty-one years from 1847.

The King of Bavaria has offered a prize of 200 louis-d'ors (about £96) for the best drama illustrative of German history. The competition is open to authors of all nations; and, in order that it may be as extensive as possible, the time for sending in manuscripts is fixed as late as the end of November, 1860.

PREFERENCES AND APPOINTMENTS IN THE CHURCH.—*Rectories*: Rev. W. A. W. Brunton to Chadwell, Essex; Rev. C. Dowson to Lound, Suffolk; Rev. J. R. Pocklington to Holy Trinity, Salford; Rev. J. B. Feado to Ellesborough, near Tring. *Vicarages*: Rev. J. Booker to Pontefract, Yorkshire; Rev. F. H. Law to Lullington, Derbyshire; Rev. J. G. Saunders to Stowmarket with Stowupland annexed, Suffolk. *Perpetual Curacies*: Rev. W. R. Scott to St. Mary Magdalene, Harlow; Rev. C. Wolsey to Lisadill, diocese of Elphin. *Cureties*: Rev. J. S. Wilkinson to the parishes of Mawgan and St. Martin, Cornwall.

CAPTAIN CARNEGIE, the ex-Lord of the Admiralty, has addressed an angry letter to Sir John Pakington, expressing his surprise and indignation at the "ungenerous taunts" Sir John has "levelled at an absent man and former colleague" in the House of Commons. He denies any complicity with Sir B. Hall in bringing the matter before the House, and then states the facts of the case. The Captain promised to start for any place offering "a fair and reasonable promise of success." Devonport was first declined; and Dover being named, and meeting with a similar reception, Sir John Pakington got angry, and said the Captain had "no option," for which hasty words he afterwards apologised, but said Lord Derby coincided that he ought to stand. Captain Carnegie declined, "with the Government Reform Bill tied like a millstone round his neck." Besides these political objections, it appeared clear to the Captain he could only get in by adopting "one possible method" that he could not condescend to.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Two Haytian Envoys had an interview with the Queen last Saturday to announce to her Majesty the establishment of a Republic in Hayti.

The President of the Linnean Society has issued cards for a reception, at Burlington House, for Wednesday evening, May 4.

Dr. William Baly has been appointed Physician Extraordinary to her Majesty.

Active steps are being taken in order to have the *Great Eastern* ready for sea by the latter end of July or the beginning of August.

The deliveries of tea in London estimated for last week were 875,428 lb.; an increase of 88,835 lb. compared with the previous statement.

A mail will be made up for Rio de Janeiro to be forwarded by the steamer *Jeddo*, which is appointed to leave London on the 28th inst.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess d'Aumale intends to give a series of parties at her villa residence at Twickenham after Easter.

On Saturday last Mr. Sheriff Conder was elected Alderman for the ward of Bassishaw, in the room of Mr. Farncomb, who had retired.

It is intended to erect a monument to the late Marquis of Waterford, and the subject has been referred to the Earl of Howth, Lord St. Lawrence, and Lord Ingestre.

The Queen has granted the dignity of a Knight of the United Kingdom to Mr. Justice Haliburton, of Nova Scotia, the author of "*Sara Slick*," &c.

The Rev. A. Fane, Vicar of Warminster, has resigned his charge into the hands of the Bishop, after eighteen years' service. The rev. gentleman has determined on residing on his own estate at Boyton.

In consequence of the advantage gained by General Wrangel over the Circassian forces upwards of 2000 of the inhabitants have come in and made their submission.

The great annual boat-race between picked crews from the two Universities was rowed on Friday week on the Thames. The Cambridge men were the favourites at starting, but Oxford won.

An old Russian soldier, who was made prisoner in the first wars of the Consulate, and had located himself in France, has just died in the hospital of Avenas (Nord), aged 104.

The Municipal Council of Paris has decided to present Lamartine with a splendid country house and large garden, situated in the Bois de Boulogne, and called La Petite Murette.

A number of the citizens of Montreal have presented to Sir William Logan a silver fountain, in commemoration of his services as Provincial Geologist of Canada, and at the Exhibitions at London and Paris.

On the 10th of February a meeting of artists was held at Melbourne for the purpose of establishing a "Society of Arts" in that capital. A committee was appointed to draw up rules and elect officers.

It is stated that some Russian residents in Paris, in conjunction with some French literary men, are about to bring out a new periodical, to be called the *Slavonic Review*.

The journeymen bakers of London held a meeting on Saturday last for promoting the laudable movement to shorten their period of labour to twelve hours per day.

The two men, Richard Bolton and John Danks, under sentence of death for the murder of Thomas Maddocks, a gamekeeper, in a poaching affray at Doddington, have been reprieved.

A New Zealand paper states that Dr. Hochstetter, the geologist to the Austrian expedition, is still pursuing his scientific researches in the neighbourhood of Auckland.

Our "detectives" have done good service to the Picture Gallery at Amsterdam, by recovering for it, in London, from the hands of thieves, a picture by Vanderwerf, valued at £2000, lately stolen thence.

A boiler explosion occurred at Messrs. Lloyd and Foster's, Old Park Colliery, on the road to Darlaston, on Friday week, occasioning the death of one man.

An exhibition has just been opened at the Egyptian Hall, under the direction of M. Desanges, consisting of a series of pictures representing the various acts of bravery for which the Victoria Cross has been granted.

A bazaar will be opened in the Townhall, Leeds, on Monday, May 23, and continued on the three following days, in aid of the building fund of the Female Orphanage, to be erected on Richmond-hill, Leeds.

At a meeting held at Willis's Rooms, on Monday, it was resolved that a public banquet should be given to Sir John Lawrence, and a committee was appointed to carry the resolution into effect.

The French schooner *Rosalie* arrived in Greenock last week, having on board 1015 bags of beetroot sugar from Dunkirk. Several other vessels are reported bound for the Clyde with similar cargoes.

The allowance granted in the Legion of Honour to the naval or military service is 250*l.* a year to knights, 500*l.* to officers, 1000*l.* to commanders, 2000*l.* to grand officers, and 3000*l.* to Grand Cross.

It is stated that the Mediterranean garrisons will be promptly reinforced. Probably several of the second battalions of regiments serving in India will be employed in this service.

The magnificent building of the Western Bank, in St. Andrew-square, Glasgow, has been purchased for £15,000, for the Scottish Widows' Fund Assurance Society.

During the brief Session, which was brought to a close on Tuesday, seventy-two public and private bills passed the Legislature and received the Royal assent.

On the 15th of July, and the three following days, the Middle Rhine Musical Festival will be held at Mayence. Mdle. Titiens is to be the principal lady singer.

The committee of the Isle of Man Telegraph Company have agreed to accept the tender sent in by Messrs. Glass and Elliott for manufacturing and laying down the cable between the island and England.

The Queen has appointed Lieut.-Col. Sir H. C. Rawlinson, K.C.B., to be her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Shah of Persia.

The Marquis Pauli, Sardinian Ambassador at the Court of St. Petersburg, lately had an audience of the Emperor of Russia, and delivered to his Majesty the insignia of the Order of the Annunciata for the Grand Duke, heir apparent to the throne.

Sir J. W. Awdry, the Right Hon. William Reginald, Earl of Devon, and R. Jebb, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, have been appointed to be her Majesty's Commissioners to inquire into, and report on, the Civil, Municipal, and Ecclesiastical Laws and Customs now in force in Jersey.

A meeting of the Liberal Association was held in the city of London, on Friday week, for the purpose of hearing addresses from the members, who seek re-election. The meeting passed a vote of confidence in all four.

A new secretary, Mr. Solater, has succeeded to the management of the Zoological Gardens, Mr. David Mitchell having undertaken, at the Emperor Napoleon's request, the arrangement of a new garden in the Bois de Boulogne, in Paris.

We hear, says the *Athenaeum*, that Sir Charles Barry is named the architect of the new Palace of Art in Piccadilly, to be built for the Royal Academy. Messrs. Barry and Banks are the architects of the adjoining Palace of Science.

The Government emigration ship *Forest Monarch*, which sailed from Southampton on the 25th of August with 330 emigrants, arrived at Sydney, New South Wales, on the 21st of December. Sixteen deaths and six births occurred during the voyage.

Congregations will be held at Oxford for the purpose of granting graces and conferring degrees on the following days in the ensuing term:—viz.:—May: Wednesday, 4th; Thursday, 19th; Thursday, 26th. June: Friday, 3rd; Friday, 10th.

The Archduke Albert, the *Cologne Gazette* states, was, on leaving Berlin, to proceed to Munich, Hanover, and other points of Germany, his mission being to try and obtain the arming of the Confederation in favour of Austria.

As the King of Bavaria was, some days since, going by railway from Munich to Augsburg, on his way to Darmstadt, the train went off the rails near Olching, and his Majesty was in some danger; but, fortunately, the whole of the party escaped unhurt.

A missionary now in Erromanga (one of the New Hebrides) was recently shown the oven "in which the body of Mr. Williams was cooked," and the missionary says he hopes to be able to obtain the martyr's skull, which it seems has been preserved.

On Saturday the Lord Mayor fixed the election of a gentleman to fill the office of High Bailiff of Southwark for Thursday, the 5th of May next, the Government having determined that the appointment should be filled up by the Corporation.

On Saturday last a second drinking-fountain was completed at Hampstead, at the corner of Heath-street and Hollybush-hill. The basin, which is backed by a slab and surmounted by an entablature, bearing date 1859, is carved out of a piece of red granite, and highly polished.



"THE FRIEND IN NEED."—BY MISS SOLOMAN.—IN THE FLATOU EXHIBITION.

"THE FRIEND IN NEED." BY MISS SOLOMAN.

MISS SOLOMAN, who delights to point a wholesome moral, or some generous humanizing sentiment through the medium of her art, has here a very telling subject, which she has most successfully dealt with. We all know the terrors of the parish beadle, a functionary whom the poet probably had more particularly in his eye when he wrote the memorable words—"Dressed in a little brief authority, he plays such apish and fantastic tricks before high Heaven as make the angels weep." The poor and houseless tremble at his approach; the widow and orphan flee before his scowl, for his eye is as insensible to pity as his gold lace collar and hatband, and poverty is a sin which, in his opinion, nothing can palliate. In the present case, however, an amiable lady appears about to mediate between the tyrant and his victims—"a friend in need," whose good offices, let us hope, will not be unsuccessful. Miss Soloman has thrown a great deal of character into this spirited little picture, which forms part of Mr. Flatou's collection, now exhibiting at the City Gallery, in Change alley.

THE COLOURED SUPPLEMENT.

"PAST AND PRESENT."—FROM A PAINTING BY H. ALKEN.

THE artist, in the Coloured Supplement, affords a striking illustration of the march of enterprise and civilisation which distinguishes the present age. The old Manchester "Defiance," which was once the marvel of the travelling world, performing the distance without stoppages in eighteen hours, has been put off the road by the superior powers of steam, which conveys us to the centre of the cotton district in a little more than a quarter of the time; and there the old wreck lies, horseless and wheelless, with door off its hinges, a place for fowls to roost in, in a dilapidated inn yard. And the inns themselves—"the coach-houses" of olden times, where all was noise and bustle on the arrival of each successive coach, and where "Twenty minutes allowed for dinner, gentlemen!" was the tempting announcement of dapper waiters to cramped and weary travellers, but where "Now, gentlemen, take your places!" was the hoarse command of the guard before you had scalded your mouth with the first spoonful

of soup,—these staring, impudent establishments, where extortion and incivility was the rule, and moderation of charge and a decent welcome the rare exception, have long been shut up and deserted; whilst their proprietors have taken their departure from the scene with ominous shakes of the head, protesting that "these new-fangled notions will bring the country (like their own wretched post-horses) to the dogs." The coachman and guard, too, who, with greedy palm and insolent tone, made levy of black mail every forty or fifty miles, announcing that they "left here;" and the porter, whom you were called upon continually to "please to remember," and the ostler who stood at your chaise-door (if you posted) to draw you of the last of a series of enforced shillings,—these are all swept from the scene, to cringe, to bully, and to plunder no more. The change effected in the condition and habits of the travelling class also is equally remarkable; the glass of ale or brandy-and-water, with which the desperate outsider tried to console himself and infuse warmth into his drenched and chilled frame during the brief interval occasioned by the change of horses, is now dispensed with, and a man may arrive sober, and

comfortable, and collected at the end of a two-hundred-mile journey without having moved from his snug seat inside his first-class carriage. To crown all, the saving of expense is in about an equal proportion with that in time and with that of increased comfort, being about a fourth of what it was under the old coaching system.

But if we were to write a page—one of our well-filled pages—we should not be able to do justice to this important innovation, which has brought the extreme ends of the land within a fourth of their former distance, has facilitated the expedition of goods and the mutual intercommunication of individuals from all parts of the country in so remarkable a degree; thus promoting the use of all descriptions of products, strengthening the ties of friendship between individuals, and removing a host of old ignorant prejudices, and jealousies which used to exist between men of different counties and districts of the same nation. The generation now rising to man's estate amongst us will hardly be able to realise the state of things in regard to locomotion in the days when their grandfathers were little boys, nor the magnitude of the change which has taken place since. As we write we light upon an entry in "The Annual Register" of 1775, which states that at that time the stage-coaches generally carried eight inside, and often ten outside, passengers; and that there were then of these vehicles, flies, machines, and diligences, 400. Now, when it is considered how many thousands of railway carriages are travelling in all directions daily, none

carrying less, and some more, than the old stage-coach, and that they perform in one day of twelve hours distances which in 1775 took a week to accomplish, some idea may be formed of the immense increase in travelling and goods transit which has taken place within the last three-quarters of a century, and of the influence which this important element of enlightenment, vitality, and wealth has had upon society.

And then the telegraph wires, that have laughed the railway speed to scorn, and have virtually, if not literally, annihilated time and space, and brought all the extremest nations of the earth within speaking distance of one another; what effect they may have on the future relations of States it were impossible even to predict; although we are not over sanguine when we pronounce that it cannot but be for good,—for the promotion of that good understanding which promotes and ensures peace. The Duke of Wellington, in the time of his glittering but sanguinary Peninsular campaigns, was heard to denounce the press as an impediment in the way of his operations, and to declare that it would be impossible to carry on a war in the face of it. And what then? If War be impossible in the presence of a free circulation of public intelligence, Peace, perforce, must be maintained; and all that facilitates the interchange of intelligence between nations must tend to this consummation, so devoutly to be wished. Thus for "Past and Present" we have ventured to take a glance at the future, which we trust may be excused us, and may never prove fallacious.



"SHEEP IN A LANDSCAPE (BRITTANY)."—BY ROSA BONHEUR.—IN THE FRENCH GALLERY.

A PAINTING BY T. ROBERTS.

Mr. T. ROBERTS's little picture of a young girl plucking flowers in a churchyard, exhibited in the Suffolk-street Gallery, is graceful and suggestive in idea. There is no name to it in the catalogue, but its



A PAINTING BY T. ROBERTS.—IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

Subject is simply and touchingly indicated in the beautiful lines:—

On one of these, the lowliest there,
With heedless joy a child sat
playing;

The fairest flowers growing wild she
cull'd.

With childish glee herself arraying.

There sits the young creature, her face full of health and joy, surrounded by the triumphs of death, yet heedless of its terrors; gathering bright flowers, which have sprung up upon the neighbouring modest grave, to decorate her straw hat withal. A pleasant smile plays upon her innocent features as she surveys the effect of the gay decoration she is constructing; and a warm sunbeam gilds her bright hair and radiant features. The old churchyard, choked with wild herbage, the ivy-clad tomb, and the quaint old church itself, are probably a study from nature, and have all the solemn charm which should attach to such a spot. All that pertains to the technical completion of the work has been accomplished in a highly artistic manner.

"SHEEP IN A LANDSCAPE,"

BY ROSA BONHEUR.

We are very happy to have the opportunity afforded us of engraving one of the most recent efforts of the great French landscape and cattle painter, Rosa Bonheur, which is at present being exhibited at the French Gallery, Pall-mall. In this work, which is of small dimensions—strictly a cabinet picture—we have a quieter treatment, and a softer and more delicate touch than in some of her larger productions, which astonished by their bold foreshortening and vigorous handling.

The group of sheep here presented have been sketched from some originals in the plains of Brittany, and are represented scattered about in a very free and easy manner, without any attempt at studied arrangement. But they are true to life—every head a portrait; and their somewhat shaggy coats are admirable alike for colour and texture. The light herbage at which they are browsing is remarkable for its freshness, crispness, and juiciness. The atmosphere is charmingly genial and transparent, and the tone throughout is harmonious and agreeable.

THE SPEAKER'S LEVEE.

In the course of the Session of Parliament the Speaker of the House of Commons holds two or three receptions at his official residence, which are distinguished and dignified from other réceptions of the same kind by being called Leves. These ceremonial have acquired more than usual interest this year from the circumstance of their having taken place for the first time in the magnificent official residence of the Speaker at the New Palace of Westminster.

We give an illustration of the first levée which was held. The Speaker receives his guests in what is called the receiving-room. He is represented standing before the fireplace, at; tired in plain Court costume and acknowledging the greetings of the noblemen and gentlemen; who, in uniform or Court dress, come to pay their respects to the First Commoner of England. The guests are by no means confined to members of the House of Commons, but include many peers.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

[The following abstract of the Parliamentary intelligence for Friday, April 15, appeared in the Saturday edition of this Journal last week.]

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY, APRIL 15.

EDUCATION IN INDIA.—The Duke of ARGYLL moved for a series of returns relating to this question. After some discussion the motion was agreed to in an amended form, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY, APRIL 15.

APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES.—In reply to a question from Colonel Clifford in reference to the recent appointment of magistrates at Hereford, Mr. S. ESTCOURT said he had nothing to qualify in a statement which he had previously made to the House.—Lord W. GRAHAM said the appointment of the magistrates referred to was required by the necessities of the public service.—Mr. CLIVE denied that the additional magistrates were required.—Mr. NEWDEGATE, in deprecation of the discussion, asserted that nothing had been done in the matter which would not be done by the Opposition if they came into power.—Mr. BOUVIER condemned the appointment of magistrates from political considerations.—Mr. DE VERRÉ asked if one of the magistrates in question was not an uncertificated bankrupt?—Lord J. MANNERS said one was made bankrupt thirty-two years ago, but had since been engaged extensively in business.—Mr. H. BENKELEY said the Whigs had appointed magistrates without reference to their politics; but that since the present Government came into office magistrates had been appointed from political considerations alone.

THE INDIAN MUTINY.—In reply to Sir De Lacy Evans, Lord STANLEY said it was not the intention of the Government to send out a corps of artillery to augment the British army in India.

THE RIBBON TRIALS IN IRELAND.—Mr. M'MAHON asked the Attorney-General for Ireland whether he could give any explanation relative to the setting aside of jurors on the late trials for Ribbonism at Belfast, and state the names of the jurors set aside, and the cause of their being so.—Mr. WHITESIDES explained and justified the course pursued by the Crown Solicitor at the trials, and said that no person was set aside because he was a Roman Catholic; and that the number was less than had been set aside in similar cases for the last thirty years.—Mr. H. HERBERT regarded the explanation of the right hon. gentleman as entirely unsatisfactory.

THE INDIAN ARMY AND FINANCE.—Sir G. C. LEWIS asked Lord Stanley whether he would state the present strength of the British army in India, and the reduction which he proposed to make in it; urging the necessity of carrying that reduction as far as possible, in order to relieve the overburdened finances of India.

THE DISSOLUTION.—In reply to Lord Palmerston, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said her Majesty's Ministers would advise her Majesty to dissolve Parliament some day during Passion Week; and that, so far as he could judge, the new Parliament might meet on the 31st of May (Hear, hear). But he might, perhaps, be able to make a more positive statement on Monday.

The House was then counted out at twenty-five minutes past seven.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—SATURDAY.

The House met at twelve o'clock.—On the motion of the Earl of DONOUGHMORE, the Municipal Elections Bill was read a third time and passed.—Their Lordships adjourned after a brief and merely formal sitting.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

THE PRESENT STATE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, apologising for the frequent postponements of the subject, which he had requested in the hope of being able to announce a satisfactory termination of the long-pending dispute between France and Austria, said he regretted to find that this happy solution of the difficulty was still as far off as ever. The Foreign Secretary traced the source of the controversy, from the discontent among the Italian subjects of Austria, occasioned by the oppressions of the Vienna Government, and described the successive phases which the question had assumed through the ambitious projects of Piedmont, the interference of France, and the persevering mediation of England. After describing the details relating to Lord Cowley's mission to Vienna, the noble Earl adverted to the proposal for holding a Congress, which had emanated from Russia, and was ultimately accepted by all the great Powers. Four points submitted by the noble Earl had been accepted as the bases of the negotiations at the Congress. First, as to the means of preserving peace between Austria and Sardinia; secondly, how to arrange the evacuation of the Roman States by the French and Austrian troops; thirdly, what reforms should be introduced in the administration by Austria of her Italian provinces; and, fourthly, whether a confederation among the minor States of Italy for their mutual protection might not be substituted for the treaties now subsisting between these States and Austria, by which the Vienna Government assumed the character of protector over nearly the whole peninsula. Even after the proposal to hold a Congress had been accepted difficulties arose on questions of detail, which Lord Malmesbury briefly sketched in succession, and which had, he observed, been surmounted, even so far as to include the principle of a general disarmament; but the mode of carrying out that process was still a subject of keen controversy with Austria and France—one wishing it to be completed before the Congress assembled, the other proposing to make it the subject of settlement during the first meetings of the different diplomatists. For his own part, he thought the question one fit rather for arrangement by military men than by delegates intrusted with exclusively political duties. Thus the question remained, and, whatever the issue, the English Government had the satisfaction to know that they had left nothing undone to preserve the peace of Europe.

The Earl of CLARENDON reviewed the negotiations, as described by the Foreign Secretary, criticising them on some points, but intimating his hope that the dispute might still be adjusted without involving Europe in war.

The Earl of DERBY acknowledged the temperate and unanimous spirit in which the question had been treated both in that and, as he believed, in the other House of Parliament. This unanimity of opinion among the leaders of all parties in the Legislature was, just now especially, important, as giving force and weight to the pacific counsels which England continued to urge on the Continental Powers. The noble Earl then proceeded to trace the course which the negotiations had successively taken, expressing his regret that the efforts made by Lord Cowley at Vienna to settle the differences between France and Austria, and which had advanced to a point promising a speedy and satisfactory result, should have been superseded by the Russian proposal of a Congress. That proposal being made from such a quarter, however, could not be refused; but, after explaining the present position of the controversy, Lord Derby affirmed that the time was almost come when England, out of consideration for her own dignity, should abstain from further interposition. One last effort was now being made to bring about an arrangement; but if this failed we should thereupon cease from further attempts at mediation, and, remaining ourselves entirely aloof from the quarrel, leave to other Powers the responsibility of lighting up the flame of war in Europe.

The subject dropped when Lord Derby concluded; and, after transacting some other business, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made his promised statement respecting foreign affairs. After explaining the origin and development of the dispute between France, Sardinia, and Austria, respecting the Italian States, by recapitulating the same series of events and negotiations which the Foreign Secretary narrated to the Peers, Mr. Disraeli stated that the point at present requiring adjustment related not so much to the question of disarmament as to the time and mode in which that operation should be carried into effect. Both France and Austria had consented to disarm, but the latter Power wished the process of disarming to precede the meeting of the proposed Congress, while France suggested that it should be made the first subject for discussion when the Congress opened. Sardinia had also never accepted the proposal to disarm, and, moreover, claimed admission to the Congress, to which privilege, as not being a first-class Power, she was no more entitled than Sweden or Denmark. Thus the question stood at present. The prospect of maintaining peace was, however, much improved by the arrival in England, a few hours previously, of the Marquis d'Azeglio, from whose enlightened and moderate character he anticipated a beneficial influence in that direction. No State, he was assured, really desired war; while one power, not represented at Congress, but nevertheless almost omnipotent in Europe—the power of public opinion—had proclaimed its wish for peace in terms which no Sovereign would lightly venture to disregard. He still hoped that, by the exercise of firmness and conciliation, the tranquillity of the world might be preserved.

Lord PALMERSTON promised to speak no word which could add to the difficulties of the situation. Alluding to past events, he thought it natural that Russia should prefer a Congress, as giving her, what she had not before, a place in the discussion. It was also natural, though not admissible, that Austria should require the preliminary disbanding of the Sardinian armaments. Approving of the line of policy adopted by the Government during the negotiations, he expressed his faith in the possibility of preserving peace, now that France and Austria had both consented to disarm. This principal point being decided, it was, he thought, waste of time to prolong the controversy respecting details instead of proceeding to the discussion in Congress.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE insisted on the right of Sardinia to be represented at the Congress. The state of Italy was now a disgrace to civilisation. A crisis must come sooner or later in that country, and he hoped that England would hasten and co-operate in that eventuality.

Mr. GLADSTONE regretted that the meetings of the Congress were suspended while the different Governments were disputing about details. When vast armies were kept almost in sight of one another, a casual spark might at any moment inflame a general war. Two points had to be regarded; first, to maintain peace, and, secondly, to place the pacific arrangements on such a basis as to ensure some relief to suffering humanity in Italy from the grievous yoke of its native or foreign rulers.

After some remarks from Mr. COLEMAN,

Lord J. RUSSELL briefly expressed his concurrence in the opinion enunciated by Lord Palmerston, that the controversy respecting details need not delay the meeting of the proposed Congress. He also believed that Sardinia was justified in demanding to take a part in the proceedings.

Some further observations were made by Mr. M. Milnes, General Thompson, and Sir J. Walsh; the formal motion with which Mr. Disraeli had prefaced his speech was then agreed to, and the subject dropped.

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.—Several bills which stood for progress on the paper, having been withdrawn, Sir G. C. LEWIS moved a resolution setting forth that it is not competent to the Secretary of State for India, under the Act for the better government of India, to send orders and instructions through the secret department to the governments and presidencies in India on any subject not being a matter concerning the levying war or making peace, or treating or negotiating with any of the native princes or states in India. The right hon. member was proceeding to explain and support his motion, when the House was counted out, at a quarter past seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Parliament was prorogued on Tuesday. The Commissioners, consisting of the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Exeter, the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Hardwicke, and Earl Delawarr, entered the House at two o'clock, and immediately dispatched a messenger desiring the attendance of the Commons. In a few minutes the Speaker made his appearance, followed by Mr. Disraeli and other members.

The Clerk at the table then proceeded to read the Royal commission, after which the Royal assent was given to the following bills:—The Exchequer Bill (£18,277,400), the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill, the Manor Courts Ireland Bill, the Evidence by Commission Bill, the Medical Act (1858) Amendment Bill, the Indemnity Bill, the Nottingham Charities Bill, the Marriage Validity Bill, the Recreation Grounds Bill, the Local Government Supplemental Bill, the Manslaughter Bill, the Public Offices Extension Bill, the Confirmation and Probate Act (1858) Amendment Bill, the Naval Medical Supplemental Act Bill, the Remission of Penalties Bill, the Affidavits by Commission Bill, the Superannuation Bill, the Combination of Workmen Bill, the Municipal Elections Bill, and several private bills.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then read the Speech, which appears elsewhere. The LORD CHANCELLOR, by virtue of the commission, prorogued Parliament till Thursday, the 6th of May next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, in answer to Mr. Duncombe, that the Council would be held on Saturday (to-day) at which her Majesty would be advised to dissolve Parliament. The writs would therefore go out on Saturday evening.

THE PROROGATION.

Sir Augustus Clifford appeared at the bar, and summoned the Speaker to the House of Lords to hear the Royal assent given by commission to certain bills, and also for the prorogation of the present Parliament.

The Speaker, who was attended by nearly all the members present, proceeded to the House of Lords.

On his return the right honourable gentleman read the Speech, and, after shaking hands with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other members, retired.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.—THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

ON Tuesday afternoon Parliament was prorogued. The commission having been read, whereby the Lords Commissioners were authorised to deliver her Majesty's Speech, the Lord Chancellor proceeded to read the Speech, which was as follows:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that it is her Majesty's intention forthwith to dissolve the present Parliament, with a view to enable her people to express, in the mode prescribed by the Constitution, their opinion on the state of public affairs.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

We are commanded by her Majesty to thank you for the wise liberality with which you have granted the necessary supplies for the military and naval defences of the country; and for the provision which you have made for the exigencies of the other branches of the public service during the interval which must elapse before the estimates for the year can be considered by the new Parliament, which her Majesty will direct to be immediately called.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that the appeal which she is about to make to her people has been rendered necessary by the difficulties experienced in carrying on the public business of the country, as indicated by the fact, that within little more than a year two successive Administrations have failed to retain the confidence of the House of Commons; and her Majesty prays that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, the step which she is about to take may have the effect of facilitating the discharge of her high functions, and of enabling her to conduct the government of the country under the advice of a Ministry possessed of the confidence of her Parliament and her people.

ADDITIONAL MAELS FOR CANADA BY CANADIAN MAIL-PACKETS.—The subjoined notice has been issued by the Post Office authorities:—"Information has been received that a new contract has been entered into between the Government of Canada and the Montreal Ocean Steam-ship Company for the establishment of a weekly mail service between Liverpool and Quebec during the period that the navigation of the River St. Lawrence is open. The first dispatch from Liverpool under the new arrangement will be on Wednesday, the 20th instant, and there will be a Canadian mail-packet dispatched from Liverpool to Quebec on each succeeding Wednesday, until the close of the navigation."

THE STATUE TO HUNTER.—(To the Editor.)—Mr. Charles Hawkins, in a letter to a contemporary, makes objection to the proposed statue to John Hunter, and declares his preference for a £1 subscription, from the 20,000 members of the medical profession, to be applied to the foundation of scholarships at one of the Universities. This suggestion is, I think, obnoxious to the imputation of a regard to the interests of doctors rather than to the glory of Hunter or the edification of the public. "Two or three scholarships" would, no doubt, be very acceptable to future Charles Hawkinses, but how can it be pretended that they would serve the same purpose as a statue? The emulation excited by the prize of a Hunterian scholarship might, indeed, impart a reverence for the name of Hunter in the minds of some medical students, which otherwise they had not felt, but these would already know of Hunter and his fame. A statue is a mark of public honour, which "he that runs may read," so that thousands who had else never heard of Hunter, or only faintly heard his name, should stop and say—who or what was he? If, as Mr. Hawkins says, we have not hitherto been successful in our statues, the greater the inducement to erect one now which shall do honour to its original and to our country. The profession may fairly give credit to Mr. Hawkins for his *esprit de corps*, though they should prefer the noble and disinterested act of a statue to their great surgeon to that of putting their money out of one pocket into the other.—A. B.

THE GREAT THELLUSSON CASE.—In the House of Lords, on Saturday last, their Lordships sat to receive the opinion of the Judges upon a question of law submitted to their consideration in the above case. The appeal was from the Master of the Rolls, who decided that the respondent, Baron Rendlesham, answered to the description of "the eldest male lineal descendant" of Peter Isaac, and was therefore entitled to one moiety of the estate left by the testator, Peter Thellusson; and that the respondent, Charles Sabine Augustus, was entitled to the other moiety as "the eldest male lineal descendant" of Charles. The following was the question submitted for the opinion of the Judges:—Whether "the eldest male lineal descendant" meant the "eldest descendant" in point of line, or whether the eldest descendant in point of age. In the first case the property would go to the son of the son of the son of the testator; in the latter it would go to the uncle of the son. The Judges gave their opinion on Saturday. Six of them were in favour of the first proposition—namely, that the "eldest male lineal descendant" meant the eldest male descendant in point of line, and two were for the latter construction—namely, that it meant the eldest male descendant in point of age. The opinion of the majority of the Judges is in favour of the decision of the Master of the Rolls. Their Lordships reserved their judgment on the whole case.

PHONOGRAPHY.—Last week's number of the *Photographic News* contains the details of a singular discovery of M. L. Scott, by means of which sounds may be made to record themselves, whether these sounds are those of musical instruments, or emitted by the voice in singing or speaking. Professor Wheatstone, during his recent visit to Paris, was invited by the Abbé Moigno to inspect the papers on which these sounds had printed themselves, and is said to have been greatly surprised and pleased with what he saw. The mark produced on the paper by a particular note is invariably the same; so also, if a person speaks, the tone of voice in which he speaks is faithfully recorded. As yet no practical advantage has been obtained by this discovery; but M. Scott is sanguine that, in course of time, he will so far improve his apparatus that it will be capable of printing a speech, which may be written off verbatim, to the great saving of the labour of Parliamentary reporters.

SKETCHES IN PARLIAMENT.

It must be very satisfactory to the country to be told on the last night of the sitting of this Parliament that it is more than probable before the new one can meet England will have selected the antagonist she thinks it most proper to attack, and will be mixed up in the European war which is just about to commence. No other interpretation can be put on that fiery, passionate speech of Lord Derby on Monday night. In the published reports the words read tamely and quietly enough, but as they were delivered the effect was striking. One could not help thinking at the moment of the famous Knowsley breed of gamecocks. The truth is that Lord Derby had evidently been fretted and worried by the tameness of his colleagues, when all the Rupert blood was in a flame. He no doubt felt as he used to do when he was Secretary for Ireland, for he fully appreciated the national custom of that country, where a combative person in search of an insult goes about trailing his coat on the ground and dares any one to tread on the skirts thereof. The combative Premier must have fumed and raged while poor Lord Malmesbury was, with palpable hesitancy and uneasiness, gradually disclosing the condition of foreign affairs; and while Lord Clarendon, with his cold sneer, was sententiously showing that nothing could come of the state of things but a universal European "scrimmage." It was with a gamesome start that Lord Derby seized on the opportunity of allowing himself to boil over, and reminded one of the days when young Mr. Stanley jumped on the table at Brookes's Club and, with his malapert eloquence, put vigour and warmth into the Whig party, then trembling and tottering under the load of their projects of Reform. Again, it was impossible not to contrast his eager impulsiveness with the still-life, pattern-boy gravity, and methodic style of speaking of Lord Stanley; and one remembered that, when father and son were this week simultaneously in each House proposing the vote of thanks to the Indian army, those who were listening to the latter could not help thinking that, as a speaker, he is exactly what the former may be expected to be when he reaches the age of Lord Lyndhurst. There is just so much likeness between them as to suggest such an idea. If it had not been for visions of falling funds and prospective income-tax, those who heard that rash but plucky and cheery speech of Lord Derby could not but have admired the heartiness and warm nature of the man. He was at length wearied of peddling and pottering diplomatists, word-splitting and retro-active, and determined to cut through the meshes and tangles of a complicated situation. No doubt he has succeeded; and if there be any gentlemen of England who are tired of living at home at ease, and would like a little warfare and a campaign or two by way of a change, they may be sure that the First Minister has done his best to accommodate them.

In the House of Commons the interest was neither so well sustained, nor worked up to such a pitch. For once, the right place for the diplomatists and strangers, who pushed into all the space afforded them in the Lower House, would have been the Chamber of Peers. Considering that it was the last day but one of a dying Parliament, and that a general election has, in a certain sense, actually begun, it was surprising that so many members could have been got together. It was remarkable that Mr. Disraeli, generally so punctual, was rather behindhand, and only got in time to avail himself of the legitimate opportunity of making his statement before the orders of the day were called. Nothing could be in greater contrast to the speech of Lord Derby than that of the Leader of the House of Commons. He spoke all through in low, level, colloquial, but distinct tones, without a gesture, or a change in the expression of his face, and delivered a plain but admirably clear narrative of what had taken place, and so contrived that where it was necessary to be reticent it was hardly observed that he was so. Listening to his conclusions, and coupling them with the calmness of his manner, one was tempted to think that he was stating a belief in the prospect of peace; and it was only when those who ran from one House to the other when the magnates had spoken in the Commons, and heard Lord Derby's firework speech, disclosing the real truth of the matter, that one recollected that Mr. Disraeli never suffers more from emotion than when he is outwardly calm and placid, and that he is never cooler than when he appears to be in a passion. It is a matter perhaps often noted that, when Lord Palmerston means to say what he wishes to be understood, no man can speak such clear, neat, simple English sentences. On this occasion he went on so smoothly, and with such completeness, that, contrary to what is usually necessary, it is doubtful whether there was any necessity for putting his speech into perfectly readable order; it could have been written word for word as it was spoken. Up to this time the discussion had gone on without the interruption of a single cheer. It is to be observed that, when the question before them relates to foreign affairs, members, if not listless and uninterested, at any rate seldom get excited, as they do when domestic matters, small and great, rouse them into the display of some of their vestry qualities. Mr. Gladstone, in his earnest but thoughtful and calmly-delivered speech, first elicited one or two marks of applause; but, on the whole, the debate passed off with singular quietude. No doubt Mr. Thomas Duncombe has a right to be heard on any question which may come before the House, but it is really a little too irritating, when all the interest of a debate on a subject like that under discussion had closed with the very so-so speech of Lord John Russell, that you should have the small deer rising and stammering, and pottering out platitudes which can by no possibility throw any light on the subject.

Whatever show of life the House presented during the debate on foreign affairs was but flickering, and, for the second time within the last few days, the attempts of certain members to bring their crochets before an assembly consisting of a dozen or so of occupants of the benches were visited by their legitimate reward—a count out. It may be a strong measure to inflict such an indignity on an ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer; but if one who has been a Cabinet Minister has so little tact as to bring on the subject of the extraordinary powers of the Secretary for India at such a moment as the night before a prorogation, which is to be followed by a dissolution, what can he expect?

Until the 31st of May the affairs of the country are unreservedly in the hands of the Executive Government and the newspapers; while the good people of England are amusing themselves with one of their experiments of working out the problem of self-government.

MODE OF SEALING LETTERS FOR THE EAST INDIES.—The Indian Post Office authorities having called attention to the inconvenience and frequent injury to correspondence from this country in consequence of the melting of the wax used in sealing the letters, and the adhesion of letters one to the other, the public are recommended in all cases to use either prepared wax or wafers in sealing their letters sent to India.

The President and Council of the Microscopical Society have issued cards of invitation for a soirée, at the South Kensington Museum, on Thursday, May 5. On this occasion the ample space in the lower part of the building will be devoted to the exhibition of microscopic objects, whilst the whole of the Museum and picture-galleries will be open to the visitors.

We rose next morning with the lark and sniffed the delicious air, scented as it was with the milky odour of cows. We washed and breakfasted, and bade our friends good-by, delighted with the politeness of the people. We continued along the valley and began our second ascent, meeting now and then some individuals carrying their two baskets and stock in trade. They all had a smile and chin-chin for us. We jogged merrily along up and down the pass, till we came into Lum-Chin Valley; then rested at Lum-Chin village. The subject of the Sketch, "The Midday Halt," was taken here. We were now approaching the notorious pirate village of Ty-poo, where all the piratical produce is landed, to be transported to the interior. We here had some misgivings as to what reception we should be likely to meet with. However, we pushed on till we came to the village near it, and found that our path lay through the middle of Ty-poo itself; we then entered the main street, which was swarming with cutthroat-looking fellows, who all turned out to look and scowl upon us. We met with no rudeness notwithstanding, and quietly got out, crossing a kind of creek. Ty-poo is very prettily situated in M'rs Bay, dotted as it is with islands. Then we proceeded up another beautiful pass, from the top of which we had a glorious view of M'rs Bay, whilst we indulged in tiffin *à fresco*. The coming down was magnificent, as the mountain sides were well wooded. At the foot of the pass we caught a lovely glimpse of M'rs Bay again. We soon arrived there, and, passing several villages imbedded in mango, ly-chee, and longgan an groves, at sunset halted at Can-how, and took up our quarters in the An-

SKETCHES IN CHINA BY OUR OWN ARTIST.



TRAVELLING IN CHINA.—THE MIDDAY HALT.

cestral Hall, a kind of joss-house in which are the tablets of the ancestors. This building serves the double purpose of schoolhouse and hotel. The people seemed to be exceedingly poor. The village elders came and bade us welcome. One old fellow was a most extraordinary character. He had but one eye, but that eye was quite enough. He was everlastingly prowling about, seeing what he could pick up, both in the eating and looting line. I send you a sketch of him. The schoolmaster was a very respectable fellow. We got a quantity of dry grass to make our beds upon, and established the kitchen at once, and soon found ourselves comfortably installed. Dinner over, cigars and chat wound up the evening.

The next morning we were up early, and off again. We were struck by the manner in which they make their paddy-stacks, to keep them from the ground, and to serve at the same time as a shelter for the cattle. (See the Engraving.) Those curious beasts, the water-buffaloes, we met everywhere. The pass we now ascended was the finest of any we had seen, as it was clothed with dense jungle to the summit, where there was a curious rock, called the "Woman and Child" by the natives, though I confess I failed to discover the resemblance. Some of the paths are composed of steps up the whole way—"such a getting up stairs I never did see." The path is only about two feet wide. There is no other road. The districts we passed through were "horseless," not a single horse or even pony existing

in those parts; and, as for donkeys or mules, I never saw any out of Hong-Kong, so that everything must be carried up by men. As I said before, we were continually meeting these fellows carrying their stock in trade from village to village. Sheep were likewise not to be found. In the dry weather the country people set fire to the grass to make manure of. The mountains thus burning at night look very singular. The summits of all we passed over were blackened, having been burnt in this way. Fowls and pigs are plentiful, and fish also. We could always get eggs, which was very gratifying to us. We ascended our last pass, and got into the clouds, but, on coming down a little, we saw the Island of Hong-Kong across the bay, and the Mandarin town of Cowloong at our feet; the mountains on this side being most precipitous and bare of trees; the descent was sublime, to use a big word. We arrived at Cowloong in safety, and found a boat waiting for us, which we got into, and proceeded to Hong-Kong, much delighted with travelling in China.

The valleys through which we passed are often the scenes of clan fights. No Mandarin goes into the district, though the Cowloong one is nominally the magistrate of that part of the country. There is one of these clan fights coming off soon in Cum-tin Valley. They are often very sanguinary, and, though not confined to the provinces of Kwang-tung and Fookien, are yet more frequent in the above provinces than in any other part of the empire. Sometimes

villages are laid waste, and men, women, and children slaughtered, the Government being powerless to prevent the occurrence of these outrages.

I must confess, however, that, as far as the behaviour of the various villagers was concerned in regard to us strangers, nothing

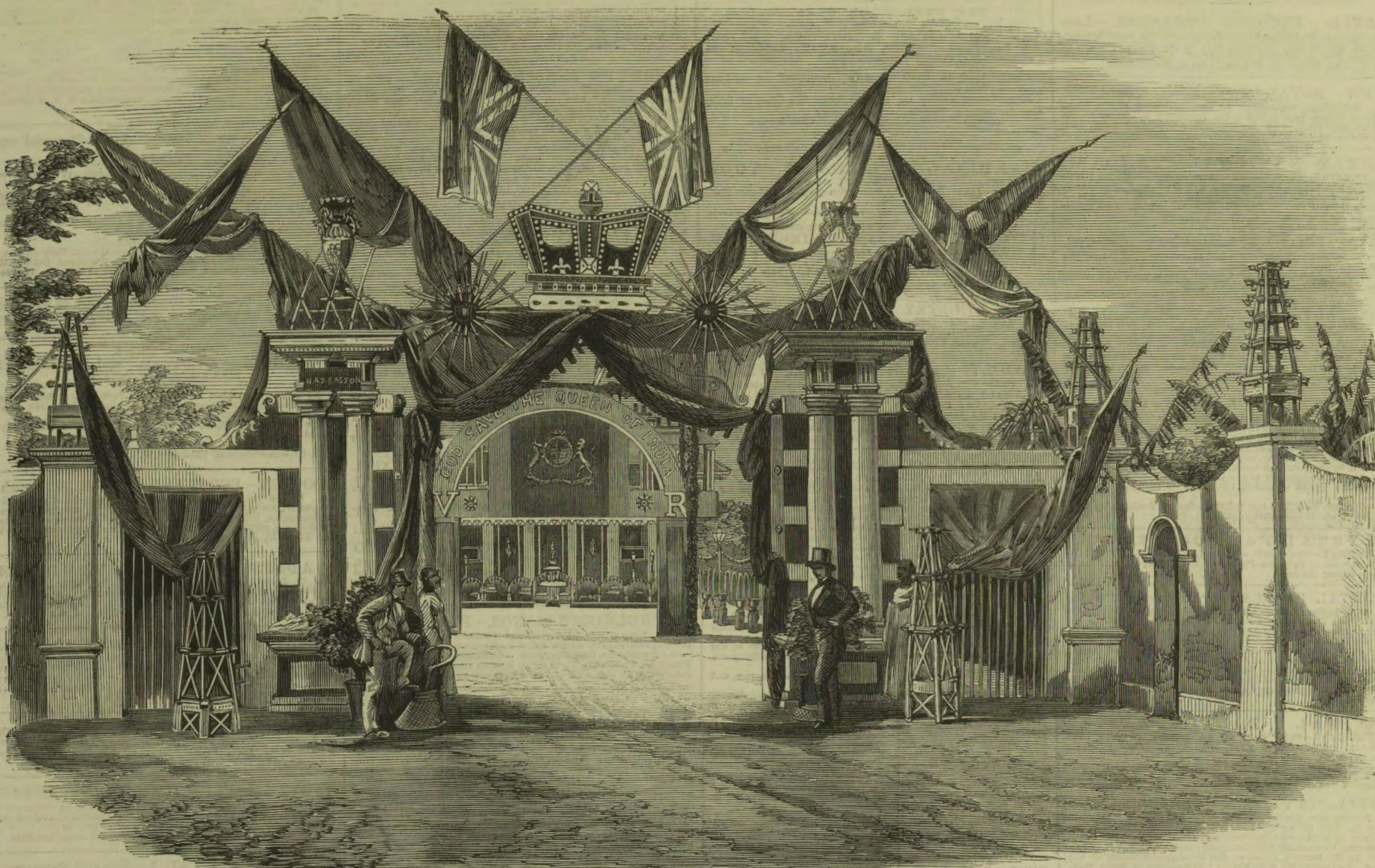


THE VILLAGE ELDER CAN-HAOU.

could have been more warm and agreeable; the word "Fanqui" we never heard, though many a mile from any Europeans; and, when sketching, did any young urchin get in my way, the older fellows would tell him that I could not see. Now this, though trifling in itself, yet showed that the "simple-minded rustics" were not without politeness, though clothed in rags. Trips like these do more good than treaties. Accustom the people to see foreigners, treat the natives with politeness, and, above all, good temper and joviality, and let them see we are not all traders and dollar-hunters. The Chinese



PADD STACKS.



ENTERTAINMENT GIVEN TO LORD ELPHINSTONE AT SANS SOUCI, NEAR BOMBAY.—GATEWAY OF THE MANSION DECORATED FOR THE OCCASION.—SEE PAGE 403.

have a laudable respect for any non-mercantile foreigner. It is curious in Canton to hear all the Europeans called "Ty-pan," which means commercial agent, or supercargo, the highest title accorded to them; whereas we who do no trade are called "Sien-Sang," sig-

nifying teacher or master—a term of great respect, which shows that, were there fewer traders and more gentlemen of no occupation, we should then cease to be looked down upon, and, probably, would be much liked, provided we did not interfere with politics or

any other ties. It is quite natural that the Celestials should look down on a people they imagine can soar no higher than dollar making and smuggling, bringing with them devil-ships to enforce an unlawful trade, and to destroy their cities and people.



THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.—LAYING THE FIRST STONE OF JACKSON'S CREEK VIADUCT.—SEE PAGE 403.

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—Last Week of Mr. Charles Kean's Management.—On Easter Monday, April 25, and during the week, will be presented Shakespeare's Metrical play of **HENRY THE FIFTH**, commencing at Seven o'clock. King Henry, Mr. C. Kean. Chorus, Mrs. C. Kean.

NEW ROYAL PAVILION THEATRE.—Whitechapel-road.—JIM MYERS, Proprietor of the Great American Circus, begs to inform the Public that he will open, on **EASTER MONDAY**, with the **ORIGINAL AMERICAN COMPANY** (with one exception), in addition to numerous celebrities.

GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.—Shoreditch.—Immense success of Mr. and Mrs. BARNES WILLIAMS. On **EASTER MONDAY**, FAIRY CIRCUS, **OUR GAL**, to be followed by **LATES FROM NEW YORK**; in all of which Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Williams will appear. To conclude with a favourite Drama.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—EASTER HOLIDAYS. On Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the Palace and Park will be open to visitors at 9 a.m. From which hour trains will leave London-bridge and Finsbury Terminals in rapid succession, calling at intermediate stations as often as necessary.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—EASTER HOLIDAYS. The OUT-DOOR AMUSEMENTS will commence for the season on Easter Monday, and will comprise cricket, bowls, quoits, rifle practice, archery, boating on the lake, velocipedes, &c. Upwards of one hundred thousand tulips are in full bloom on the terraces, and the numerous shrubs and spring flowers throughout the grounds present a scene of great beauty.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—EASTER HOLIDAYS. The IN-DOOR ATTRACTIONS will include the whole series of COTTON MACHINERY at work, preparing, spinning, and weaving, for the first time this season, as well as the centrifugal pumps, and other interesting illustrations of mechanical power; popular, instructive, and amusing lectures, by Mr. Popper, illustrated by chemical and mechanical experiments and dissolving views at intervals; display of the whole of the interior fountains; performances by the orchestral band, and on the Grand Festival Organ. The GREAT HANDEL ORCHESTRA for the forthcoming Commemoration will be open to the public.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—EASTER MONDAY.—The BAND OF THE COLDESTREAR GUARDS, by kind permission of Col. Lord Frederick Sauter, C.B., will perform at intervals during the day.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Arrangements for the week ending Saturday, April 30.—Monday to Wednesday, open at nine; Thursday and Friday, open at ten. Admission one shilling; children under twelve sixpence. Saturday, open at ten. Vocal and Instrumental Concert at three. Admission Half-a-Crown; Children one shilling. The Cotton Machinery at work, and Display of Interior Fountains daily; Illustrated Lectures, Band, and Great Organ as usual. Grand Show of Tulips on the Ornamental Beds of the Terrace. The Palace Art-Union Works on View in the Sheffield Court. Sunday, open at 1.30 to shareholders gratuitously by tickets.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—EASTER HOLIDAYS.—Open at nine on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Admission, as usual, one shilling. Children under twelve, sixpence. For railway arrangements and list of attractions, see above.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Lecture by Mr. E. V. Gardner, Professor of Chemistry, on the Philosophy of Magic, with brilliant Experiments. Splendid Series of Dissolving Views of the Holy Land, after David Roberts's Sketches, by Mr. J. Langley. Lecture on the Humorous Melodies of Old England. Lecture by Mr. J. L. King: "Philosophy in Sport Made Science in Earnest." The Oxy-Hydrogen Microscope. Models in Motion, &c., &c. Madrigals, Part-Songs, &c., by the St. George's Choir, every Wednesday Evening at Eight. Managing Director, R. I. LONGBOTTOM, Esq.

MR. H. BLAGROVE'S EVENING QUARTET CONCERT. at HANOVER ROOMS, THURSDAY, May 5, at Half-past Eight o'clock. Quartette, Rubinstein and Mendelssohn; Quintet, Spohr; Solo, Violin, Otello Ernani; Vocalists, Miss Banks and Mrs. Lockey; Violins, Messrs. H. Blagrove and C. Lane; Violas, Messrs. B. Blagrove and Clementi; Violoncello, Mr. Aylward; Accompanist, Mr. Cusins. Tickets, 7s. and 4s., at the Music Warehouse; and Mr. Blagrove's residence, 151, Gr. at Port and street, W.

MR. SIMS REEVES, Mr. Chas. Hallé, M. Wieniawski and Signor Piatti, at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERT, ST. JAMES'S HALL, on MONDAY EVENING next, APRIL 25. The Programme will consist of a Selection from the works of English Composers.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S CHINA, EVERY NIGHT at Eight; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Afternoon at Three. Stalls which can be taken from the plan at the new Chinese Box-office every day from eleven to five, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery 1s. Just published, price 6d., TO CHINA and BACK. By ALBERT SMITH. Forwarded by post from the Egyptian Hall for seven stamps.

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MESSES. DICKINSON beg to announce that their ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PORTRAITS, Miniatures, and Works of Art executed at their Establishment, will open early in May, at their Galleries, 114 New Bond-street.

THE DERBY DAY, by W. P. FRITH, R.A., will be ON VIEW at the GERMAN GALLERY, 183, New Bond-street, on and after MONDAY NEXT. Open from Ten till Six. Admission, One Shilling.

INSTITUTION of FINE ARTS, Portland Gallery, 316, Regent-street, W., opposite the Polytechnic.—The TWELFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the WORKS of LIVING PAINTERS is NOW OPEN from Nine till six. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.

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MR. CHARLES DICKENS will READ, at ST. MARTIN'S HALL, Long-acre, on **EASTER MONDAY**, THE POOR TRAVELLER, BOOTS at the HOLY-TREE INN, and MRS. GAMP. ON **EASTER TUESDAY**, THE POOR TRAVELLER, MRS. GAMP, and the TRIAL from PICKWICK. The doors will be opened for each Reading at Seven. The Reading will commence on **Monday** at Eight. Stalls (numbered and reserved), 4s.; Centre Area and Balconies, 2s.; Back Seats, 1s.—Tickets to be had at Messrs. Chapman and Hall's, Publishers, 189, Piccadilly; and at St. Martin's Hall, Long-acre.

REV. J. M. BELLEW, at ST. JAMES'S HALL, will give a READING from the BRITISH POETS on **THURSDAY EVENING, May 5**, at Eight o'clock. Stalls (numbered and reserved), 4s.; Centre Area and Balconies, 2s.; Back Seats, 1s.; of Mr. A. Austin, St. James's Hall; at Mitchell's Royal Library; at Mr. S. Life's Library, Circus-road; St. John's Wood; and at Craner and Co.'s, Regent-street.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.—SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—The Museum, Art Library, and Drawing Schools will be OPEN FREE, every morning and evening, from Monday the 25th to Saturday the 30th of April, both days inclusive. Day time, from Ten till Six; evening, from Seven till Ten. By order of the Committee of Council on Education.

THE PRIZE DRAWINGS of the METROPOLITAN DISTRICT SCHOOLS will be exhibited during the Easter Holidays at the SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM in the rooms previously prepared for the reception of the Vernon and Turner pictures.

The Class-rooms of the Training Schools will also be open during the Easter Holidays to the public.

PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.—KING'S COLLEGE, London.—Professor TENNANT, F.R.S., will give a COURSE of TWELVE LECTURES on GEOLOGY, having special reference to the application of the science to Engineering, Mining, and Agriculture. The Lectures will commence on **WEDNESDAY MORNING May 4**, at Nine o'clock. Fee, 41s. 6d. R. W. JENY, D.D. Principal.

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As only a limited space is allowed, preference is given to those Advertisements which are more immediately addressed to Tourists. Advertisements must be sent to the Publisher before the 30th of April, accompanied with a remittance, or reference for payment in London.

50, Albemarle-street, London, April 14, 1899.

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